



MINORITY CONSTRUCTION COUNCIL
Meeting the Challenges of Construction with Excellence & Diversity

11P

Monday, March 09, 2009

Topic: S. B. No. 1035 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING EQUAL ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBCONTRACTORS.

From: Cesar Mejia: Executive Director of the Minority Construction Council (MCC)
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Jorge Calderon-JoCal Construction- Vice President Board of MCC
Llyod Thompson-City Electric
Cebert Rodney-Fine Line Construction- President Board of MCC

Good Afternoon/Evening representatives of the Planning and Development Committee:

My Name is Paul Keyes and I am the Legislative Advocate of the Minority Construction Council here in Hartford, also known as the MCC. We represent minority contractors from all four corners of the state and our mission is to promote the overall health and vitality of the states minority contracting community. Our members buy materials, equipment goods and services, provide opportunities to the underemployed, provide training to those who need it, create commerce and build bridges between both the private and public sector to create a better Connecticut. We have over ## members and independently our members are very engaged in the political process that affects their business, personal and professional lives and I am here today to speak on their behalf.

We are here today in support of SB 1035 An Act Concerning Equal Access To Opportunities For Sub-Contractors, as small contractors here in the state of Connecticut it is being increasingly difficult to compete in the marketplace not because of the natural barriers that exist in the marketplace for business we expect and welcome the competition that is created in that environment, but it is the increasing amount of legislative action that has taken place in the last few years that have given rise to some serious concerns for the small business person here in the state of Connecticut.

The General Assembly needs to realize that there are anti-competition measures that are put into law that affect the livelihood of the states citizens and business community in an adverse way and the General Assembly in some cases may not even be aware of the impact that their actions bear. The mere fact that small business do not have the resources or the political clout necessary to affect legislation on a daily basis already puts them at a distinct disadvantage as it relates to the issues that affect their business and employees. We are here today to try to correct some of the laws, however well intentioned that the state of Connecticut has imposed on the small contractor.

SB 1035 is an attempt to correct some of the laws that are currently in effect that are severely impact the small contracting community and the states citizens.

The requirement for sub-contractors to secure a bond on state funded projects where the prime or general contractor already has a bond in place is an issue that needs to be reversed, because of the impact and undue burden that it puts on the small contractor, in light of the current economic climate it would behoove the state to remove barriers that limit competition.

Currently, a contractor who wants to grow an aspect of his or her own business and apply for a demolition license in the state of Connecticut through the department of public safety, for either a class A or B license is so ambiguous and unprecedented that I have said that one can practice dentistry in the state of Connecticut, before you can get a demolition license.

One of our members brought to our attention an experience that they had with the DOT and a dispute that they had with a general contractor and the DOT. He indicated that his dispute had to be resolved through the DOT and that he felt that he could not get and objective hearing from the DOT of the situation and therefore could not be impartial to his claim, we would like to see some changes in the way that the DOT has autonomy on issues brought against it by the states contracting community.

While these issues may be broad in scope they are very real and have a huge impact on our lives as business men and women trying to create commerce, training and opportunities for our states citizens.

Respectfully Submitted as Testimony,

Paul N. Keyes
Legislative Advocate
MCC