KRONENBERGER & SONS RESTORATION, INC.

February 28, 2011

In Reply to: Raised SB Bill No. 987 an Act Requiring Community Workforce Agreements for Construction projects at the Connecticut State University System.

Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Connecticut General Assembly

Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Raised Bill No. 987 presently before you in this public hearing.
It is our position that this bill is detrimental to the free open competition in Connecticut and essentially discriminates against my trade employees. We are strongly opposed to this bill and see it as a direct assault against free enterprise.
My building construction business is located in Middletown, CT and I employ approximately fifty full time skilled Connecticut taxpaying carpenters, masons, painters, superintendents and managers. These workers have successfully performed numerous projects for the Connecticut State University System over the past twenty years, receiving the full prevailing wage as well as being fully vested from day one in our IRS approved pension plan. My firm also has a state approved apprenticeship program that has been in existence for over the past ten years.
This bill is nothing other than an attempt by the friends of the organized building trades to restrict competition for open and merit shop contractors and, more importantly, their employees. The bill would require my firm to hire people other than our own loyal employees (the bill would **permit** the contractor to **retain** a percentage of our employees), it would require our employees to enroll in a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement hence losing control of their fully vested benefits related to this project if they were hired, and surely it will add to the cost of construction by yet again creating an additional level of bureaucracy within the state government system. My employees, who have freely worked on Connecticut University Projects for the past twenty years, will suddenly find themselves unemployable as they will have to rely on the good grace of The Community Workforce Agreement administration, not their employer, to find a spot for them on the project.
I strongly request that Raised Bill No. 987 not be approved.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Kronenberger
President

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