

**SPAZZARINI**

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.



38 Post Office Road  
Enfield, Connecticut 06082  
(860) 745-5683  
Fax (860) 745-9024  
www.spazzarini.com

**Testimony of Edward A. Spazzarini  
Spazzarini Construction Company, Inc.**

**Before Committee on Labor and Public Employees**

**SB 987 – An Act Requiring Community Workforce  
Agreements for Construction Projects at the  
Connecticut State University System**

**February 24, 2011**

Good afternoon. My name is Edward Spazzarini. I am the president of Spazzarini Construction Company, Inc located in Enfield, CT and I'm a Member of Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut. Spazzarini Construction has worked on construction projects in the State of Connecticut for over 50 years and employs more than 50 workers in this state.

Unfortunately, as proposed, SB 987 would prevent us from bidding Connecticut State University System projects. Because of this, I cannot support SB 987. From my understanding, SB 987 would require that all construction workers on the job come from union halls. As I am an open shop employer, my long-term employees (many of whom have been with us over 20 years) would not be allowed on these publicly funded projects. In addition, the bill mandates compliance with union jurisdiction rules, which don't lend themselves to productivity or a team oriented approach to project completion. I would not know how to bid the project under the restrictive and antiquated rules.

As Connecticut's economy is limping to recover, I would encourage the Committee to review the hurdles that SB 987 would impose on the state's commercial construction industry. SB 987 states that a community workforce agreement would be required for any construction contract at the Connecticut State University System. An agreement with a labor organization is not a cure for CT contractors or the state's struggling economy. The real remedy is a level bidding field where all Connecticut contractors have the opportunity to bid, especially on publicly funded projects paid by Connecticut taxpayers. Employees on these projects are currently adequately paid under Connecticut's prevailing wage laws so a change does nothing more than to put more money into the pockets of union representatives.

I would like to point out that Connecticut has a well trained and highly skilled workforce. We know because we pull from it each spring when we gear up for another busy construction season. Connecticut leads the nation when it comes to requiring licenses for various construction trades. Our employees carry P6 & P7 plumbing licenses as well as hoisting licenses and each one has completed the OSHA 10 Hour Training Course. In addition, the state Department of Administrative Services has in place a bidding process which requires us to submit to an annual prequalification process before we are allowed to bid on publicly-funded state projects. This process involves bonding capacity, transparency for political donations, previous work experience, and the prequalification process makes it virtually impossible to have a contract awarded to a contractor without due diligence.

This Community Workforce Agreement would be a government mandated, anti-competitive arrangement that is unnecessary and would exclude a majority of Connecticut residents from participating in these State Funded projects. It would detour open, fair and competitive bidding on public works projects. These agreements are known to drive up the cost of construction by reducing competition and effectively excluding merit shop contractors such as Spazzarini Construction Co., Inc. and our long-term, skilled employees from building projects paid for by our own tax dollars. This would be a terribly discriminatory misuse of our taxpayer money as Connecticut workers struggle to stay afloat in this horrible economy. I say that SB 987 should not move forward. It would squash the much needed opportunities and competition for creating jobs as the majority of the construction industry would be unable to meet the unfair bid requirements.

On behalf of the construction industry, I urge you to oppose SB 987.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Spazzarini  
President