

MACRI ASSOCIATES, INC.

Mechanical Contractors

**Testimony of
Macri Associates, 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 M. Sandra Macri and I am CEO of Macri Associates, Inc. located in Avon Ct., and a member of Associated Builders and Contractors, The Construction Institute, The State of Connecticut Apprenticeship Training Program. We work on construction projects in the state of Connecticut and employ 29 Connecticut Citizens.

As proposed, SB 987 would prevent us from competing for these Connecticut State University System projects. This lack of competition will drive up costs and further burden taxpayers. Therefore, I cannot support SB 987.

Macri Associates is a State of Connecticut certified woman owned small/minority business enterprise. It is hard enough to find work especially during these difficult economic times, and as proposed, SB 987 will create an insurmountable level of bureaucracy for all of us in the contracting fields, making it impossible for some of us to keep our doors open and people employed. It also flies in the face of Governor Malloy's efforts to streamline our governments and reduce spending.

Our mechanics work hard and endure long hours of schooling at a substantial cost to themselves so that when they complete their schooling and receive their State of Connecticut Mechanics license, at their own expense-paid to the State- they can look for work anywhere in the state- SB 987 would limit their ability to find and secure work even though they took the same courses and paid the same fees as the union members did- this could not be any less American and absolutely goes against the civil rights of merit shop mechanics-licensed by state of Connecticut.

Connecticut has an uphill struggle to overcome a huge deficit and any system that would increase costs to the taxpayer while also decreasing competition and completely shuts out an entire section of our workforce is a bad idea.

Financially, SB 987 requiring a so called Community Workforce Agreement on a state university project is a fiscal slap in the face to Connecticut taxpayers who pay for state university projects. Using taxpayer's money fairly is one thing, mandating it's use for

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one sector of the workforce over another (union only) is misguided governance. Merit shop construction companies in Connecticut represent more than 80 % of the workforce, however, Community Workforce Agreements would be used at the merit shop mechanic's expense.

Mandated Union- only agreements on public works projects are anti-competitive and remove all chance of fair competitive bidding. PLA's drive up the cost of construction by reducing competition and excluding merit shop employees from staffing projects which are paid for by their own tax dollars. As governments, both state and local are looking for any way possible to save money and reduce spending, an arrangement such as the Community Workforce Agreement would only serve to increase the cost of construction statewide and therefore increase the cost to the Connecticut taxpayer.

SB 987 is dangerous to our state's economy and to the premise that all citizens should have the same opportunity to find work and support their family.

Connecticut cannot afford SB 987 and I implore you to oppose it.

Sincerely,


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Cc:file