

**Brian Sear**  
**First Selectman**  
**Town of Canterbury**  
**Before the Labor & Public Employees Committee**  
**March 10, 2011**

Senator Prague, Rep. Zalaski, members of the Labor Committee:

I attended the budget address by Governor Malloy was heartened to hear that the "Big Three" revenue lines... Education Cost Sharing (ECS), Town Aid Road (TAR) and Local Capitol Improvement (LOCIP) ... are being proposed to stay at their current levels. This is good news for us, as these areas contribute to two major Town operations: Education and Public Works. Cuts to any of these lines would have meant a direct reduction in services.

However, we have witnessed a decline in state aid over the years as well as in tax revenues. This makes the need for mandate relief more important than ever. I thank you for recognizing this and raising critical mandate relief bills for a public hearing.

I am here today to support **SB-990, An Act Concerning the Prevailing Rate of Wages**, which adjusts the prevailing wage thresholds for the first time in two decades. This will help us reduce costs associated with needed building construction and renovation projects. We cannot allow schools, town buildings, and other town facilities to fall into disrepair.

Given the difficult budgetary times, the state needs to give towns new tools to achieve cost savings and lessen property tax burdens. Increasing the prevailing wage thresholds is a simple way to do this. Not only does it reduce a town's building costs, it will help spur economic development and help us maintain buildings so we don't face more costly repairs down the road.

The prevailing wage thresholds have not been adjusted since 1991 even though construction costs have increased significantly. Legislation adjusting the prevailing wage thresholds is long overdue.

**I therefore urge your support for SB-990.**