H. H. S. MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

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Labor and Public Employees Committee
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: SB-987 An Act Requiring Community Workforce Agreements for Construction Project at the Connecticut State University System.

Committee Members,

My name is Joseph Abbatematteo and I am an employee of H.H.S. Mechanical Contractors, Inc. a local construction company located in Manchester, CT. H.H.S. has been a Connecticut business for over 20 years working on construction projects and creating jobs for citizens in the State of Connecticut.

Unfortunately, as proposed, SB987 would prevent our company from competing for these Connecticut State University System projects. We actively pursue many projects that come up to bid for the CSUS. As Taxpayers, and employees in the State of Connecticut we believe that the lack of competition will drive up costs, and our taxes.

The bidding process in the State of Connecticut is very competitive and allows all Companies a fair chance to be awarded work. When the equal opportunity chances are taken away it forces companies out of the State for lack of opportunity. Connecticut has been trying to create jobs, and bring Companies to the State in the past few years. Unfortunately, if you were to pass SB987, it would aid in the prevention of new and existing Companies' ability to succeed in Connecticut.

Passing any Act that prohibits private sector jobs from actively participating in the bidding process is discriminatory.

The bidding process in our State creates a Fair and Just way of awarding projects. Everyone who bids on a project has the same opportunity to succeed without prejudice.

Passing SB987 would be a step in the opposite direction for the State of Connecticut. One of the most highly regarded states for their participation in Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employment; this Act would be discriminating against a large population of workers and employers in the construction industry.

This Act would extinguish any opportunity for competitive bidding, and the hope to recover 20% of the jobs that were lost during recent years in the construction industry.

For the integrity of our State, please OPPOSE SB 987, and keep our local economy growing.

Signature

Joseph Abbatematteo
Name

3/2/11
Date