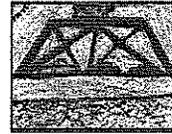


# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

165 CHURCH STREET • NEW HAVEN • CONNECTICUT 06510



JOHN DE STEFANO, JR.  
Mayor



*The vision of New Haven's children  
is our city's greatest resource.™*

**Testimony of Mayor John Destefano, Jr.  
City of New Haven  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
March 10, 2011**

Good Afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today:

I have been Mayor of the City of New Haven for 18 years. During my administration the city has built nearly two billion dollars worth of city construction at the same time promoting private and industrial construction projects. The City of New Haven continues to fight for construction projects, delivering in excess of two million square feet of space in the last year as well as attaining a 3% grand list growth in the last year, marking the second year where New Haven has the largest growth in the state. A vast majority of these construction projects have been prevailing wage under project labor agreements.

The prevailing wage has not been a financial burden to the city rather it has been a creator of wealth. A study two years ago examined prevailing wage workers versus non-prevailing wage workers found that the non-prevailing wage workers were able to work for \$251 per square foot as opposed to the \$260 per square foot required of prevailing wage workers. It is important to note that prevailing wage workers are able to offer immense value by offering a reliable collection of workers. The city prevailing wage projects currently employ 24% New Haven workers, 38% minority workers, and 6% of female workers. Recently the prevailing wage workers had access to even more jobs with a private sector project on 360 State Street, which employed 1,600 state residents. The creation of jobs benefits the community and the state, and a site creating 1,600 jobs does not come across often.

Prevailing wage has created a job training mechanism with an apprenticeship component of 2-5 years, helping create the development of a skilled workforce we have today. Times are tough, three weeks ago the city had to lay-off 82 municipal workers, and our workforce will continue to downsize. The city will always be looking to privatize some of the city's functions we will do so in a manner that guarantees these workers are have a fair wage.

Construction is the second largest industry in the state, when we pay workers fairly, not exorbitantly, but fairly we reap the rewards in taxes in stable communities and in a better future. The Prevailing wage has created skilled and reliable workers and which has benefited the city of New Haven in reaching its economic development goals.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.