

**LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
HEARING MARCH 13, 2012**

TESTIMONY ON HB - 5401

SENATOR PRAGUE REPRESENTATIVE ZALASKI AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE TODAY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENT PREVAILING WAGE LAWS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 31-53 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES REGARDING THRESHOLDS SHOULD BE LOWERED OR DELETED NOT RAISED. THESE THRESHOLDS ARE THE SECOND HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY(SEE ENCLOSED CHART). THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS FOR THE STATE AND MUNICIPALITIES ARE FAR FROM REALITY. CLAIMS OF SAVINGS OF 20 TO 30% ARE FANTACIES SINCE THE AVERAGE COST OF LABOR ON THESE PROJECTS IS IN THE 30% RANGE. THE ECONOMY OF THIS STATE IS NOT GOING TO IMPROVE IF WE LESSEN THE CHANCES FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR CITIZENS THAT RECEIVE FAIR WAGES AND BENEFITS AND THEREFORE CAN PATRONIZE THE BUSINESSES IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND HELP HEAL OUR ECONOMIC STRIFE. FOR THESE REASONS WE ASK THAT YOU VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL.

TESTIMONY FROM CAMERON CHAMPLIN REPRESENTING PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS LOCAL 777 AND JOYCE WOJTAS REPRESENTING MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT. FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CAMERON AT CELL (860) 287-0020 EMAIL camc@att.net OR JOYCE AT CELL (860) 280-4623 EMAIL jawojtas@myway.com

**Appendix 3B: Dollar Threshold Amount for Contract Coverage under State Prevailing Wage Laws
(February 23, 2009)**

State	Threshold Amount
Alaska	\$ 2,000
Arkansas	75,000
California	1,000
Connecticut	400,000 for new construction 100,000 for remodeling
Delaware	100,000 for new construction 15,000 for remodeling
Hawaii	2,000
Illinois	None
Indiana	150,000
Kentucky	250,000
Maine	50,000
Maryland	500,000
Massachusetts	None
Michigan	None
Minnesota	25,000 where more than one trade is involved 2,500 where a single trade is involved
Missouri	None
Montana	25,000
Nebraska	None
Nevada	100,000
New Jersey	2,000 11,892 if the work is done for municipality
New Mexico	60,000
New York	None
Ohio	73,891 for new construction ¹ 22,166 for remodeling ¹
Oregon	50,000
Pennsylvania	25,000
Rhode Island	1,000
Tennessee	50,000
Texas	None
Vermont	100,000
Washington	None ²

West Virginia	None ³
Wisconsin State and Municipal contracts	234,000 where more than one trade is involved; 48,000 where a single trade is involved
State highway contracts	None
Wyoming	25,000

Notes:

Source: U.S. Department of Labor (<http://www.dol.gov/whd/state/dollar.htm> , accessed December 5, 2009)

¹Ohio. Beginning January 1, 1996, and every two years thereafter, threshold amounts will be adjusted according to the change in the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census Implicit Price Deflator for Construction, provided that no increase or decrease may exceed 6 percent for the two-year period.

²Washington. A separate law applicable only to State college/university construction provides for a \$25,000 threshold amount.

³West Virginia. A \$50,000 threshold is applicable for projects of the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council.