

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Testimony to the Labor Committee

February 28th, 2012

In Support of Senate Bill 181

AA Requiring The Standard And Prevailing Wage Be Paid To Certain Employees Of Employers Who Received Financial Assistance From State Economic Development Entities

Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, and members of the Labor Committee, my name is John Lurate and I am here today to speak on behalf of the IBEW in support of SB 181 An Act Requiring the Standard and Prevailing Wage be Paid to Certain Employees of Employers who Received Financial Assistance from State Economic Development Entities. As you know, the IBEW stands with our peers in the labor sector in our long standing support of prevailing rate requirements on publicly funded projects. Therefore, it should be no surprise that we strongly support the extension of such requirements to projects in Connecticut that receive financial assistance from the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Connecticut Development Authority, and Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated.

The IBEW represents over 6,000 licensed electrical journeymen and apprentices who benefit every year from Connecticut's prevailing wage laws. We feel there are numerous benefits to prevailing wage laws, including, but certainly not limited to, those mentioned below:

* Prevailing wage laws help to create jobs by offering decent wages to attract skilled workers and help to support apprenticeship programs.

* Prevailing wage laws bolster the local economy by paying workers attractive and competitive wages which are then returned to the state's economy through the purchases of homes and the use of area businesses. Studies have shown that each dollar paid in prevailing wages produces \$1.50 in economic activity.

* Prevailing wage laws actually help to control construction costs because workers on projects that pay the prevailing rate produce 13-15% more value-added per worker than those on non-prevailing rate projects.

We would thank to thank the committee for raising this bill and recognizing the importance of decent wages and the connection to job growth and economic development.

Thank you.

*Sources: www.smartcitiesprevail.com; CT General Assembly OLR Report 2010-R-0526