



**Testimony
Robin Wilson
President & CEO
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Labor Committee
February 28, 2012**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce *opposes* 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.

This bill extends the costly prevailing wage mandate to *any* construction project, public or private, that receives an economic development incentive from the state. This bill will stifle economic development and job growth by shutting out the state's independent contractors from numerous construction jobs.

Connecticut's small and midsize contractors simply cannot shoulder the administrative and financial burden associated with paying prevailing wages on small construction projects. **This bill will effectively shut Connecticut's small contractors out of many jobs, further undermining our state and local economies.**

Rather than expanding prevailing wage by mandating it for private construction projects, **Connecticut should help small contractors compete for jobs by increasing the threshold for prevailing wage requirements to reflect current market prices.** The prevailing wage threshold has not been increased for more than 20 years.

It is particularly troublesome that this bill is being considered after the bipartisan effort during the special session on jobs to enact measures to stimulate job growth. This bill will effectively render those new "job growth" proposals worthless.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 650 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.

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