



Connecticut Chapter

Testimony by Chris Syrek, Vice President of
Associated Builders & Contractors

Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee on March 11, 2014

SB 318 An Act Concerning Electronic Prevailing Wage Notices, Information and Records

Good afternoon, my name is Chris Syrek; I am the Vice President of Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut (CT ABC). CT ABC is a statewide trade association of almost 200 members that represents merit shop contractors.

CT ABC would like to voice our support for SB 318 - An Act Concerning Electronic Prevailing Wage Notices. Lelah Campo, our Chapter President, testified in support of this proposal at your October 29 hearing in New Britain, and she would like to thank Senator Osten and the Committee for your leadership in raising this bill.

Prevailing wage reporting can be a time consuming process for contractors. The data must be entered electronically, printed, scanned or copied for company record keeping purposes, packaged and mailed. Allowing for electronic submission would streamline this process for the contractor by eliminating the need to print, copy, package and mail the forms, therefore cutting down on one administrative aspect of their business.

Online prevailing wage reporting would also cut down on cost and waste. Printing multiple copies, packaging them, and mailing the forms can be expensive for contractors who have large numbers of employees on jobs for extended periods of time. To be able to file the forms online directly would provide a significant cost savings over time.

Online filing could also have a positive effect on the timeliness of reporting. By making the process easier to complete, and reducing the administrative burden, contractors would be able to file these reports in a timelier manner. Over years, a GC/CM accumulates thousands of boxes of Prevailing Wage data that must be stored. This data must also be protected as it has sensitive identity information.

In addition, this would give DOL the ability to access Prevailing Wage forms from their office, rather than on sight visits. Prevailing Wage forms are stored at the prime contractor's office, and the state incurs costs to view the forms for errors or violations. This could drastically increase the effectiveness of the states reviewing of prevailing wage compliance.

In conclusion, online prevailing wage reporting is a concept whose time has come! It would have a positive effect on the construction industry and contractors ability to do business in the state of Connecticut. We support this bill, and offer CT ABC's support as a resource during the legislative process.

Thank you again for your time.