



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN E. PISCOPO  
SEVENTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: (860) 283-2155  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
John.Piscopo@housegop.ct.gov

SENIOR REPUBLICAN WHIP

MEMBER  
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

### Testimony In Support of

**HB 5072 An Act Concerning Modernization Of The Prevailing Wage Laws; IIB 5073 An Act Concerning Changes To The Prevailing Wage; HB 5074 An Act Concerning Municipal Projects And The Prevailing Wage; HB 5075 An Act Increasing The Prevailing Wage Threshold; HB 5076 An Act Concerning The Application Of The Prevailing Wage Rate To School And Transportation Projects; HB 5087 An Act Exempting Certain Municipal Projects From Prevailing Wage Rate Requirements**

Labor Committee  
February 23, 2015

Dear Chairman Winfield, Rep. Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Rep. Rutigliano, and distinguished members of the Labor Committee.

Modernization of prevailing wage is a crucial step to keep our state and economy on track. This legislation's main objective is to establish a standardized pay rate for laborers on public works construction projects. The wage that is paid to public works employees will be similar to wages earned in the private sector. Doing so this bill will prevent the government's use of low bid contracting from reducing the average price of labor in Connecticut.

Securing comparable wages between public works employees and private sector workers is key to ensuring a high quality outcome for any project. By not cutting corners on labor costs, the public works project's outcome will be substantially improved. The final product will run more efficiently and last longer before any repair is necessary. Thus by paying a fair wage now, money will be saved in the long run.

Lastly, integration of prevailing wage has allowed smaller, local construction companies to take part in the bidding process. Updating the prevailing wage laws is pivotal in allowing this local business to continue to compete for contracts. Ignoring prevailing wage essentially ignores blossoming businesses in Connecticut. These smaller businesses are the ones who can benefit the most from obtaining public works contracts. A failure to update legislation that allows this business to contend with bigger companies is a failure on our part.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John".

John Piscopo  
State Representative -- 76<sup>th</sup> District