

**Derrylyn Gorski
First Selectman
Town of Bethany
Public Hearing Testimony
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

Re: HB-6666- An Act Increasing and Indexing the Prevailing Wage Thresholds

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of increasing and indexing the prevailing wage thresholds. Bethany, a town of 5,500 people, is the only rural town in New Haven County. Our lakes and reservoirs supply drinking water for the City of New Haven as well as Ansonia, Derby, Milford, Orange, Seymour, West Haven and Woodbridge. However, because we have no municipal water or sewers our opportunities for economic development are limited placing the tax burden on our residents.

When one is accustomed to dealing in millions of dollars, tens of thousands may seem insignificant. In small towns like Bethany, every penny counts.

For the road projects for the Town of Bethany, the current prevailing wage mandate adds 23% to the cost of road paving. This last year we paid \$38,000 more than we would have if we did not have to use prevailing wage. That \$38,000 is the entire annual budget for our Registrars of Voters or it would pay for the annual fuel bill for the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department or for the Health Department.

The prevailing wage has not been increased in many years, it should be both increased and indexed to account for inflation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.