

**Bianca, Pam**

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**From:** Suzanne Bates <suzanne@yankeeinstitute.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:15 AM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** Yankee Institute testimony on HB 6705  
**Attachments:** Yankee Institute Testimony Labor HB 6705.pdf

Testimony Submitted By Suzanne Bates, Policy Director for the Yankee Institute for Public Policy to the Labor and Public Employees Committee in opposition to HB 6705

February 26, 2015

The Yankee Institute for Public Policy is a Connecticut think tank that develops and advances policy solutions to promote a smart, limited government; fairness for taxpayers; and an open road to opportunity for all the people of our state.

I am here today to address HB 6705, which would require that private businesses pay prevailing wage rates for projects that are supplemented by state funds.

We are strongly opposed to this bill. At this time the state is still in a fragile state of recovery. It is important for the men and women who depend on construction jobs that our state's business community remains willing and able to invest in projects here in Connecticut. This bill will make that kind of investment less likely.

Just the introduction of this bill sends a warning to entrepreneurs and to the women and men in this state who make the decisions about where and when to expand their businesses that Connecticut is not a good place to build or expand a business.

We would like to see the state become less involved generally with the private business community, including by making investments through state agencies. We believe the state should not be investing taxpayer dollars in businesses but should instead be investing in education and infrastructure.

If the state chooses to give financial assistance to the private sector, we need to make sure that we are not undermining the intent of those efforts to by adding additional costs and burdens on our businesses. Unfortunately HB 6705 would do just that and would undermine the state's economic development and job growth efforts.

In order to keep the state's economic recovery on the right track, this bill should not move forward.

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