

LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE PUBLIC
HEARING FEBRUARY 24, 2015 6 PM MIDDLETOWN
CITY HALL

SENATOR WINFIELD, REPRESENTATIVE TYRCYAK and MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MY NAME IS CAMERON CHAMPLIN, I REPRESENT PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS LOCAL UNION 777. I AM HERE TO EXPRESS THE SERIOUS CONCERNS OF THE LOCAL AND ITS 3600 MEMBERS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO SB-113 AND ALL OTHER BILLS (SENATE BILLS 114,180,181,182 & HOUSE BILLS 5071, 5072, 5073, 5074, 5075, 5076, 5078, 5079, 5208, 5209, 5440, 5441, 5510, 5511, 5515, 5516, 5613, 6250, 6251, 6650, 6666) ON THIS AGENDA WHICH WOULD CHANGE OUR PRESENT PREVAILING WAGE STATUTES. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT PREVAILING WAGE LAW.

YOU WILL HEAR TESTIMONY TODAY ABOUT THE PRECEPTION THAT BY CHANGING THE PRESENT PREVAILING WAGE STATUES IT WILL SAVE ANYWHERE FROM 10 TO 30% ON PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS. CONCLUSIONS FROM THE STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE'S PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE PROVE THIS IS WRONG. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY STUDIES PERFORMED BY UNBIASED PARTIES OR A UNIVERSITY THAT PROVE OTHERWISE. IF I WAS A MAYOR OR FIRST SELECTMAN I WOULD WANT TO SEE CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THE SAVINGS COULD BE REALIZED BEFORE TESTIFYING OR ENCOURAGING LEGISLATORS TO CHANGE THE STATUES IN ANY WAY. THE WAGES AND BENEFITS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THIS LAW ARE A BENEFIT TO NOT ONLY THE EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THESE PROJECTS, BUT BUSINESSES IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. A WAGE WHICH PROVIDES SOME SPENDABLE INCOME, AFFORDS CITIZENS TO PAY FOR THE SERVICES WHICH BUSINESSES THRIVE ON. WETHER IT IS A RESTAURANT, AUTO DEALER ,BEAUTY SHOP, OR THE BUTCHER, BAKER OR CANDLESTICK MAKER, THEY NEED CUSTOMERS. ALSO, EMPLOYEES EARNING A GOOD WAGE WITH HEALTH AND PENSION BENEFITS DO NOT HAVE TO RELY ON THE COMMUNITY WHEN TIMES GET ROUGH. I BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE NO THRESHHOLDS FOR PREVAILING WAGE, ANYONE WORKING ON THESE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DESERVE DECENT WAGES AND BENEFITS WHETHER THE COST OF THE PROJECT IS ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS OR ONE BILLION DOLLARS. CONNECTICUT ALREADY HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST THRESHHOLDS IN THE COUNTRY. REMEMBER THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AREN'T ON A SALARY, IF THEY DON'T WORK THEY DON'T GET PAID. IF THE TEMPERATURE IS MINUS 10 OR 110 THEY ARE THERE CONSTRUCTING OUR CITIES AND TOWNS AS WELL AS THE ROADS AND INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS SO VITAL TO OUR ECONOMY.

PLEASE REJECT ALL BILLS WHICH INTEND TO CHANGE OUR CURRENT PREVAILING WAGE LAWS.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. IF ANY MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED PLEASE CONTACT ME AT camc@att.net OR CELL (860) 287-0020