

TOWN OF



# PLAINVILLE

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## TESTIMONY

Robert E. Lee, Town Manager

Town of Plainville

Before the Labor & Public Employees Committee

February 24, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the prevailing wage bills in front of you today aimed at adjusting the current prevailing wage thresholds. I urge you to review these bills carefully and make adjustments to the prevailing wage thresholds to reflect current construction costs.

As you know, prior to 1991, legislator's adjusted prevailing wage thresholds on a six-year schedule. Since then, even with a significant increase in construction costs, adjustments have not been made. Twenty years is too long a gap in revisiting this costly mandate.

We have seen how prevailing wage laws directly increase the cost of local building projects. This anecdotal information in addition to various studies have all indicated that real savings can be achieved by increasing the prevailing wage thresholds. These savings whether they are 10, 15 or 20%, are absolutely critical to towns in this difficult economy. Many towns have held the line on spending but are now facing decreased revenues as a result of the economy. We need this relief and we need it now.

I therefore ask for your support for: SB-113, SB-114, SB-180, SB-181, HB-5071, HB-5072, HB-5073, HB-5074, HB-5075, HB-5076, HB-5078, HB-5079, HB-5208, HB-5209, HB-5440, HB-5441, HB-5510, HB-5511, HB-5515, HB-5516, HB-5613, HB-6246, HB-6250, HB-6251, HB-6650, and HB-6666. These bills offer a modest increase in the prevailing wage thresholds. This increase will allow more contractors to bid on projects, which will increase competition, helping to reduce the overall cost of local building projects. It will also give our local contractors more opportunity to bid on projects which will help improve our local economy.