

Sheet Metal Workers' International Association

Local Union



No. Forty

Hartford, New Haven, Middlesex, Tolland, Windham, New London Counties, State of Connecticut and Fisher's Island, State of N.Y.

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TESTIMONY of
Jeremy Zeedyk
Business Representative

SB 830 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO ASSIST MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES IN OBTAINING PERFORMANCE BONDS ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS.

February 17, 2015

Honorable Senator Winfield, Honorable Representative Tercyak, and esteemed members of the Labor Committee:

The Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation (SMART) International Union Local 40 submits this testimony in support of Raised Bill 830 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO ASSIST MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES IN OBTAINING PERFORMANCE BONDS ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS.

SMART Local 40 is a building and construction trades and production union which represents over 1000 working families who are employed by approximately 50 signatory construction contractors constructing, renovating and testing buildings throughout Connecticut and the region, many of which are State of Connecticut projects. Most of our contractors formerly were or currently are small, women owned and minority contractors. We applaud this effort to provide bonding opportunities to minority-owned business enterprises, but we believe there is much more that can be done.

The building and construction trades include an increasingly large number of minority workers and through aggressive recruitment efforts also include in our membership an increasing number of veterans.

We believe that amending this bill to include veteran owned businesses would be a huge benefit to the industry as a whole and provide much needed assistance to veterans who are interested in transferring skills learned through national service and construction employment. Bonding capacity is one of the main barriers to contractors becoming viable, self-sustaining and long term employers.

SMART Local 40 looks forward to continuing this discussion with the committee and offering input and solutions to this and other issues concerning the construction industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Zeedyk
Business Representative
SMART Union Local 40