



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE

February 24, 2015 \* 6:00pm \* Middletown City Hall

***Testimony in support of HB 6250, An Act Concerning Private Contributions to Public Works Projects and the Prevailing Wage Standard.***

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang and Representative Rutigliano, and other distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 6250, An Act Concerning Private Contributions to Public Works Projects and the Prevailing Wage Standard.**

Connecticut's prevailing wage law, first established in 1933, is codified in CGS Section 31-53 and Section 31-53a. The law applies to each contract for the construction, remodeling, refinishing, refurbishing, rehabilitation, alteration or repair of any public works project by the State or its agents, or by any political subdivision of the State. Under current statute, there is no distinction between funds received from public sources (e.g., property taxes) and those received from private sources (e.g., donations).

Since the prevailing wage statute was first passed over 80 years ago, municipal and educational budgets that once funded all expenses under their cognizance no longer are able to afford to do that. For many years, Boards of Finance and Boards of Education have made tough decisions concerning budget priorities that have forced the delay or cancellation of public works projects due to lack of funds. To fill that gap in some cases, non-profit and community-based organizations have formed to raise revenue to supplement municipal and educational budgets. In my town, organizations such as the Ledyard Inter Church Emergency Assistance Fund (LICEAF), Ledyard Education Advancement Fund (LEAF), Ledyard Music Boosters Club (LMBC), Ledyard Athletic Booster Club (LABC), and school Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) have been formed to provide additional resources to support the needs of the community.

In most cases, the funds raised by these organizations are not used for public works projects, but there are instances when this could occur as more resident groups work to improve their community. In order to maximize the benefit received from these private donations, as well as to continue to encourage these

same donations, municipalities should have the opportunity to make the most efficient use of these funds by being able to accept the lowest qualified bid vice one that may be artificially higher due to the prevailing wage requirement.

I urge the Labor and Public Employees Committee to support HB 6250 and thank all the members for their attention.

Regards,

Mike France  
State Representative, 42nd Assembly District  
Ledyard, Preston, Montville