



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TAMI ZAWISTOWSKI
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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of HB-6250: An Act Concerning Private Contributions to Public Works Projects and the Prevailing Wage Standard

**Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 24, 2015**

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

My name is Tami Zawistowski, and I represent the 61st District which includes the towns of Suffield and East Granby, and a portion of the town of Windsor.

I am here today to testify in support of HB-6250: An Act Concerning Private Contributions to Public Works Projects and the Prevailing Wage Standard. The intent of this legislation is to ensure that the prevailing wage threshold does not include costs defrayed by funds by a private source.

Currently, the State of Connecticut requires that contracts for 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 – which includes our municipalities – adhere to the prevailing wage and fringe benefit rates set by the Connecticut Department of Labor. These rates are frequently in excess of those obtainable in local markets.

The exceptions to this requirement are when the total cost for new construction is less than \$400,000, or in the case of remodeling, refurbishing, alteration or repair projects, is less than \$100,000. Many small projects that are undertaken by our cities and towns are within these threshold ranges. While these projects are still public works, some of these cities and towns also have private foundations or individuals who are willing to donate funds for the public good. I am asking the Labor Committee to consider identifying private funds donated toward specific public works projects as direct reductions to the contract totals when determining whether or not the project is subject to prevailing wage requirements. This will help our municipalities stretch their dollars and provide some relief for local taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tami Zawistowski', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Representative Tami Zawistowski
61st District – Suffield, East Granby, Windsor