



FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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TESTIMONY of
Cindy Dubuque, MSW
Executive Director

Re: HB 6705 AN ACT REQUIRING THE PREVAILING WAGE BE PAID ON
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE
STATE OR ANY AGENCY OF THE STATE.

February 26, 2015

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

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut ("FFC") submits this testimony in support of
HB 6705 AN ACT REQUIRING THE PREVAILING WAGE BE PAID ON CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS THAT RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OR ANY
AGENCY OF THE STATE.

My name is Cindy Dubuque and I am the executive director of the Foundation for Fair
Contracting of Connecticut. The FFC-CT is an industry-sponsored organization. Our mission is
to promote compliance with laws and regulations relating to public works construction.
Specifically, we focus on issues concerning wages, classification of workers and apprenticeship
standards.

The means in which the Department of Economic and Community Development meets its goal
of strengthening Connecticut's position in the economy is by "supporting existing businesses"
and by promoting "Connecticut industries and businesses". However, surprisingly absent from
DECD inclusion is the construction industry. Including prevailing wage on DECD funded
construction projects would remedy this absence.

While some may argue that implementing prevailing wage on the construction of DECD funded
projects would lead to fewer businesses coming to do business in Connecticut, we contend that
tax payers are spending good money to court these businesses to the state and therefore should be
sure that their tax dollars are going to provide strong middleclass jobs for those constructing their
buildings.



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When prevailing wage is paid, we not only invest in workers, we also invest in the local economy. Workers have more money to spend on taxes, on necessities and extras. In addition, by instituting a prevailing wage, contractors could compete fairly against other contractors who might come from out of state. There are three major financial factors when bidding on construction: labor, materials and profit/overhead. When labor costs and materials are essentially the same for everyone, the real competitive bidding comes down to profit/overhead. Isn't the goal of DECD funding to not only bring jobs into Connecticut but to employ people who already live here? Prevailing wage provides greater opportunity for Connecticut contractors to procure these projects.

The construction industry is important to Connecticut's economy and its workers should be included in realizing DECD's goals.