

My name is Kevin Smith and I am currently employed by L.K Sheetmetal @ the 100 College Street Project in New Haven.

I steadfastly oppose any amendments to the current prevailing wage and unemployment laws.

As a resident of New Haven where such Project Labor Agreement Laws are applied and a member of Local 40 SMART, I have witnessed the social and economic benefits these laws bring to a job and community.

The decision to have prevailing wage laws is essentially a decision to encourage a high-wage, high-skill, high-productivity growth and development path for the local construction industry instead of a low-skilled, low-wage, low-productivity growth path made possible by unregulated public works construction. Moreover, prevailing wage laws encourage a high-productivity growth path where workers are better trained, more skilled, safer, and more efficient.

Conversely, a low-wage, low-growth path, restrains incentives to provide and acquire training, puts the quality of construction at risk, encourages worker movement out of construction industry, relies upon an itinerant workforce, and inhibits the development and maintenance of a highly-skilled local construction workforce.

As such, steady construction jobs that pay a prevailing wage better the workplace and community.

Cars Repaired, taxes paid, services and goods bought by people working and earning a fair wage in their own community.

Most importantly, younger generations respond to a community where pride is instilled by the people that work there.

I ask my elected officials before me to give our community a chance. Let a fair wage for our labor bring forth a generation not hopeless and destined to crime.