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CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 24th, 2015

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Executive Secretary- Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO. I am here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state as follows:

Connecticut already has one of the highest thresholds for state projects in the country at \$100,000 for renovation projects and \$400,000 for new construction. What this means is the state's prevailing wage law does not go into effect until that threshold is met. We almost always find workers are only paid the minimum wage with no health insurance or retirement benefits on projects that do not meet the Prevailing Wage threshold, thereby driving up more costs for the State.

Changing any prevailing wage project thresholds only serves to limit the number of opportunities to earn prevailing wage on a project. It decreases opportunities for competitive bidding among contractors and limits opportunities for workers to earn a good wage while setting money aside for health care and retirement. Any changes to weaken the prevailing wage or to increase the threshold are harmful to construction workers that have just experienced an unprecedented downturn in employment and therefore oppose:

Proposed S.B. 114,188 and Proposed H.B. 5075,5079,5208,5209,5516,5613,6251,6650,6666

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Pelletier

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