



FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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Testimony of
Charlea Washington
Compliance Officer

Re: HB 912 AN ACT INCREASING THE CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATING A STOP
WORK ORDER.

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 912 AN ACT INCREASING THE CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATING A STOP WORK
ORDER.

My name is Charlea Washington and I am the compliance officer for 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.

As the compliance officer for the FFC, I have witnessed workers be misclassified, be underpaid
on fringe benefits, not be covered by workers' compensation and various other violations. The
FFC collaborates with the Department of Labor by sharing with them information about what we
witness on the ground. Increasing the civil penalty from \$1,000 a day on a stop work order to
\$10,000 a day will go a long way to eliminating the cavalier idea that the \$1,000 daily penalty is
just the "cost of doing business". In order to make a real difference, the penalty needs to be
more severe so that greater change will occur. Ten-thousand dollars a day is a hefty penalty that
sends a message that cheating workers and paying a fine is NOT a part of doing business. In
Connecticut, paying workers a fair wage, classifying workers properly, making sure people are
adequately licensed and ensuring workers have the appropriate workers' compensation coverage
is how WE do business.

Please support this bill so that the Department of Labor can send the message that deceptive
business practices will not be tolerated in Connecticut.