



United Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

100 Mill Plain Road, Suite 360

Danbury, Connecticut 06811

T: 475 289-3000 • F: 203 917-4065

www.unitedrsm.com

March 7, 2016

United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local 12
15 Bernhard Road
North Haven, CT 06473

Attention: Butch Davidson

Dear Butch,

Proposed Bill #5377 which concerns the limits at which prevailing wages apply to public building projects, if passed, would be very detrimental to the health of the CT construction industry.

The proposed limits would adversely affect the majority of construction projects in the region. With the exception of a few large school projects, most new and renovation projects fall under the proposed limits.

The roofing industry in particular would be affected because the vast majority of roof replacement projects fall under the proposed limits.

Workers need appropriate compensation for their acquired skills that they use every day. Construction workers typically work on an hourly basis. Most do not work a full week every week of the year. In order to earn a decent living wage, construction workers need to earn the hourly wages that are typical on a prevailing wage project. It goes without saying that construction can be a dangerous and dirty occupation.

If construction workers do not earn an adequate and competitive income, there are predictable consequences:

- 1] There will be a flight of construction talent to neighboring states that offer better opportunities. While it might seem that this would mean the construction workers themselves, it really also means the management and the support staff of numerous significant companies throughout the state. This may easily affect tens of thousands of workers.
- 2] Families will suffer from the disruption of income, whether the families are intact or not, two income or one. For those to whom wage garnishments apply, their recipients will suffer. More social services will be needed. We have just gone through a lengthy recession and are now only getting back to a normal level.
- 3] Skilled labor will be replaced by less skilled labor. Buildings will not be able to be constructed to the level of quality that the state of CT designs to. Safety issues will increase dramatically as only the better trained and organized companies invest in safety at a truly appropriate level.
- 4] Contractors will be less interested in bidding public work and the level of competition will go down drastically, ultimately raising costs. The construction sector of the state economy will be in a tailspin.

We encourage lawmakers to reconsider raising the limits to the proposed levels. If it is necessary to raise them at all, an increase in the neighborhood of doubling the limits would not be as disruptive as the proposed levels.

Thank you for your efforts to address the proposed bill.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DL' or similar initials, written over the word 'Regards,'.

David Lucchesi

President
United Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.
100 Mill Plain Road
Danbury, CT 06811