

**APPROPRIATIONS, COMMERCE, FINANCE REVENUE and
BONDING AND PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEES HEARING MARCH 23, 2018**

CO-CHAIRS SENATORS OSTEN, FORMICA, HARTLEY, SCOTT, FONFARA, CASSANO, and LOGAN, REPRESENTATIVES WALKER, SIMMONS, ROJAS, and LEMAR, RANKING MEMBERS ZAWISTOWSKI, ZIOBORN, DAVIS, YACCARINO MY NAME IS CAMERON CHAMPLIN, I REPRESENT PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS LOCAL UNION 777. THIS TESTIMONY IS IN REFERENCE TO SOME OF THE FISCAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

ON PAGE 7 OF THEIR REPORT THEY RECOMMEND EXCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS FOR STATE WORKERS FROM COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. THIS WOULD BE A MISTAKE IF WE WANT TO KEEP THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAT WE ALL ENJOY IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS ARE RECEIVING PROPER WAGES AND BENEFITS OR THEY WILL LEAVE FOR A BETTER LIVING ENVIROMENT. ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S GREATEST ASSETS IS IT'S WELL EDUCATED AND DEDICATED WORKFORCE. THIS WAS ACHIEVED BY HAVING THE PERSONELL FROM BOTH SIDES PARTICIPATE IN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAING SYSTEM.

ON PAGE 60 IN REFERENCE TO THE CHANGE THEY RECOMMEND TO PREVAILING WAGE, THEY STATE THAT THE CHANGE WOULD ALLOW THE USE OF NON-UNION LABOR ON REHABILITATION PROJECTS COSTING LESS THAN \$1 MILLION. PREVAILING WAGE GUARANTEES THAT PROPER WAGES AND BENEFITS ARE PAID ON A PROJECT WETHER OR NOT A PERSON IS A MEMBER OF A UNION. THERE ARE MANY PREVAILING WAGE PROJECTS WHERE NON-UNION WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED. BY RAISING THE THRESHHOLD IT WOULD ATTRACT CONTRACTORS THAT DO NOT PAY PROPER WAGES AND BENEFITS. NOTHING ENSURES THAT ANY OF THESE CONTRACTORS HAVE PROPER HEALTH BENEFITS WHICH MEANS IF ONE OF THEIR EMPLOYEES HAS TO GO O THE HOSPITAL AND CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY THE TAXPAYERS OF CONNECTICURT WILL FOOT THE BILL. AT THE SAME TIME THIS WOULD RESTRICT OUR GOOD CONTRACTORS THAT PAY PROPER WAGES AND BENEFITS FROM SECURING THESE PROJECTS.

WE NEED THOSE GOOD CONTRACTORS SO THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES CAN HELP OUR ECONOMY BY PATRONIZING THE BUSINESSES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND HELP REBUILD OUR ECONOMY.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE COMMISSION RECEIVED THE INFORMATION ON PREVAILING WAGE BUT IS NOT ACCURATE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY. IF ANY FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED FROM ME I CAN BE REACHED AT camc@att.net OR CELL (860) 287-0020