

Good afternoon, my name is Meg Rietschlin. I am the majority owner of a small construction company located in rural Crawford County. I wear many hats as president: my responsibilities include managing the finances of the company, managing liability, health, and surety insurance, banking, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, submitting bids, meeting owners and owners reps when necessary. My experience spans decades and I have seen many changes in the public works landscape. I am always thankful for the many opportunities to work on public works projects including school projects, local infrastructure improvements, roads, culverts and bridges in Ohio. Owning a small construction company requires knowledge and experience across many facets of running a business.

I am one person, but I may have to interact with dozens of government agency people in the course of my work. Payroll taxes, income taxes, employment taxes such as workers compensation, unemployment, CAT taxes, sales taxes. There is the submission of bids – electronic bids to ODOT, electronic bids of local authorities. There is payroll reporting such as the I-29, the certified payroll reports, federal reports, the annual prequalification certification renewal, annual licensing renewals on various platforms. The requirement to collect and submit data to some government agency is growing exponentially.

I read OAC Rule 4501:1-1-21 which lists the identification documents that are acceptable to apply for Ohio Drivers license, temporary permit, CDL, or identification card. Bullet point © states “A person who applies for first issuance of an Ohio credential, or issuance when an Ohio credential has been expired for more than six months shall present identification documents sufficient to establish the person’s: (1) Full legal name: (2) Date of birth: (3) social security number (SSN); (4) Street address of the person’s principal residence in the stat of Ohio; and (5) Status as a citizen, permanent resident, or temporary resident of the United States. An Ohio Drivers License is acceptable proof to establish identity. A similar proof is required for a US Passport. There is an expectation by me that anyone who works for me on a construction project will be able to drive a vehicle; not necessarily a CDL. Before that person can work, he/she must submit to drug testing as a requirement by the state of Ohio on a public works project. When going for that test, the person must produce a Drivers License, and the intake people scan the ID. Upon hiring an employee, I must submit the persons name, address, social security number, date of birth and date of hire to Ohio New Hire platform. Similar information is provided for group health insurance, Federal Motor Carrier, and on. The point here being that Ohio has many and multiple ways to create a database of employees’ status as to residency and employment.

I have enough work to do. I don’t need additional requirements to prepare and produce and store records that should be readily available. If someone wants a job and produces the

documentation that is required by the I9 and that document is completed and filed, then I have done what is and should be required.

I have one more comment. The public works sector that I work in has a very heavy government oversight. The subcontractors who work for me (and usually larger than my company) also must go thru the same processes I do. I should not be responsible for any of their employees, they should be. At the present time, I do not need to collect information from subs to complete an I-9. I would never be able to keep up with that requirement. But maybe that is the point. If you inundate me with the requirement to collect so much information, I will cease to be.

There are always unintended consequences to these types of regulations. And no regulation is ever as simple as conceived and always grow tentacles over time. This proposed law is meant to drive the small contractor out of public works opportunities.