



Testimony on HB163 – Prevailing Wage

Chairman Young, Vice-Chair DeVitis, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagen and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee, My name is T.J. Honerlaw from the great City of Mason. I'm president of Honerlaw Construction and Remodeling LLC.

As a small business owner of a construction company, I believe it's time to end prevailing wage. It creates unnecessary barriers to entry for local business. It benefits only the large contractors who bid enough big jobs that it's profitable for them to be familiar with this system.

Just this past year the Mason Historical Society wanted to add on and expand their building. Being born and raised in Mason and a small-town contractor, I was hopeful for the opportunity to have my company play a part in this hometown project. Unfortunately, I was told that the job would be paying prevailing wage and that I would have to file the required paperwork. It was then that I understood why many small town projects were done by big town contractors.

Many times I hear how Ohio is working to become more business friendly. This very committee works hard to pass legislation to do just that. I can tell you from a compliance standpoint, current Prevailing Wage laws create a burden on small town projects. I pride myself on providing my customers with quality service. As a

general contractor with no employees I would be prohibited from using existing partnerships unless they too were willing to comply with the Prevailing Wage process. The people at the Historical Society seemed equally confused as they had difficulty in directing me on where and how or even what steps I needed to do to meet state expectations on this project.

After a little research and speaking with other firms, I was told to pass on the project. I was told it is not worth the trouble to meet the requirements of a prevailing wage project. Let someone in Cincinnati bid.

Chairman Young and members of the committee. As a small business owner, I pride myself on quality work and fair compensation. Prevailing Wage laws discourage people like me from bidding on local government projects. Passage of HB163 will make it easier for local governments to complete projects and keep it local. After all, isn't that what is important? Supporting local business and local workers?

Thank you for the time today and I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

TJ Honerlaw 09/19/2017

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