



Representative Susan Manchester

Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 146

House Commerce and Labor Committee

March 3, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 146, which will allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to choose to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects.

Prevailing wages mandated on projects in small villages and townships, especially in my District, can make some public-improvement projects as much as 20 percent higher than the market rate. Not only is this an issue of local control, but House Bill 146 serves as a great cost-savings measure for our villages and townships.

Understanding that Prevailing Wage does work well for some areas of the state, this bill will place decision making power in the hands of those individuals closest to the project. The purpose of House Bill 146 is to empower local governments and state institutions of higher education to make the best decisions for their constituencies, while also protecting taxpayer dollars and pursuing free markets.

This legislation was introduced and heard by this committee in the 133rd General Assembly as House Bill 78. Local control is a hallmark of good government, and I am glad to sponsor this legislation with Representative Riedel. Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 146. We look forward to answering your questions.