

Gibble Construction, Inc.  
1513 Picnic Grove Rd.  
Manheim, PA 17545

December 9, 2009

Re: Project Labor Agreement Proposed Legislation HB 2010

I am writing regarding the proposed legislation to ban project labor agreements between governmental agencies and construction labor unions. Project labor agreements are vital to sustaining a fair bidding process as they set a level playing field. Companies who are bidding the work (union or non-union alike) will be held to one set of rules as well as negotiated wages.. It will not be up the Pennsylvania Department of Labor to enforce work rules, worker classifications, and wages with the few enforcement officers they have. You will have one set of rules to bid by and therefore, the scamming with sub contractors, cash people, or misclassifying workers will be a thing of the past. The commonwealth and United States government will get the taxes they deserve which could in turn be used to fund more projects. This proposed legislation only bans PLA's and does not address any other ongoing problems in the construction industry - such as the misclassification of workers. A union contract takes care of the misclassification problems through the negotiated contract and negotiated work rules. Through union enforcement workers compensation will be paid on the workers, the unemployment fund will have premiums paid into it, and the federally mandated matching SSI funds will be paid.

I know the PLA at Pottsville Intermodal is especially near and dear to the representatives from Lancaster County hearts in their quest to dismantle PLA's. Gibble Construction from Manheim happens to have approximately \$100,000.00 worth of work on this project. I bid this work as competitively as I bid work at the Mennonite Home project in Lancaster (for instance) which we also weatherproofed. In the market Gibble Construction competes in, Lancaster County (with union labor) I bid every job competitively. I did not bid the Pottsville Intermodal project in any other mindset. I also want you to know the workers which will be sent to this project are taxpayers and voters from the Manheim and Elizabethtown areas. In these trying times my men will have some work they can expect to perform in the dead of winter.

I just don't understand why our elected officials insist on turning their backs on the working people of this state or this nation to support legislation which is obviously not looking out for the working man or women. I want my employees to prosper as productive Americans and in turn I expect them to function as responsible Americans. They have houses, car loans, and kids in school and therefore depend on a living wage. This bill as proposed will help further erode our standard of living. You can say you are looking out for the interests of small business, but I am a small business. I've been a small business for fifteen years and ten of these years have been as a signatory union contractor. We have been able to compete for the past ten or fifteen years because of the quality of my workers.

As a student of history I totally believe why the greatest generation was great is because they decided they will have a good life and are more than willing to sacrifice their present for the future. I believe we (as right now) are faced with the same decisions. As an American who is looking forward to retirement within the next ten years it is more than clear we need the younger workers to make wages to support our governmental system. This legislation you propose will certainly further encourage employers in an irresponsible free for all. We have had a free for all for all those who wanted it for many years and is it not time for moderation?

Sincerely,  
David M. Gibble