



WASHINGTON STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH THE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO



PREVAILING WAGE

The Best Value for Public Investment

WASHINGTON'S PREVAILING WAGE LAW WORKS

Support Local Economies

Employ Local Contractors and Professional Trades Workers

Reduce Overall Construction Costs

Provide Apprenticeship Training Opportunities

Bring Increased Tax Revenue to Our State and Local Governments

Economic Gain

Our state's Prevailing Wage law was enacted in 1945 to discourage importing cheap, unskilled labor and to ensure wages paid are based on the local economy in each county. Construction projects funded with public dollars should benefit Washington tax payers, and not out-of-state contractors and imported workers. Employment of local trades people and contractors from the region and community generates income that will be spent at small businesses and benefit the community as a whole.

Train for the Future

States with prevailing wage regulations have more apprenticeship programs and opportunities for education and training of the emerging professional construction workforce. After prevailing wage laws were repealed in Utah and Kansas, apprenticeship programs dropped by 40% and 38% respectively. It has also a fact hat larger percentages of women and minorities receive education and training opportunities on prevailing wage projects.

Manage Cost & Improve Quality

Research over the last 30 years has repeatedly demonstrated that prevailing wage projects cost less, or no more overall, when all economic factors are evaluated. On average, labor costs account for a mere 20 percent of a project's total cost, and prevailed projects are more likely to be completed on time, on budget, representing superior quality and with reduced injuries and fatality rates.

Government Benefit

The employment of local construction professionals and contractors result in greater tax revenues for our state. States that have repealed prevailing wage laws have suffered significant losses in sales and income taxes, reflecting an overall loss of income among construction workers and broad economic stagnation for local companies.

Washington State prevailing wage law is modeled after the Federal Davis-Bacon act of 1931

During the 1931 floor debate Congressman Robert J. Bacon (R) addressed the need to defend against "certain itinerant, irresponsible, contractors, with itinerant, cheap, bootleg labor" that were undermining local contractors and hurting state economies.

For a list of reports substantiating the diverse benefits of prevailing wage regulations visit:
www.wabuildingtrades.org/PrevailingWage

