



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

March 13, 2017

Governor Scott Walker
One East, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Governor Walker:

We respectfully request that you veto 2017 Senate Bill 3, which prohibits governments from requiring project labor agreements (PLAs) that set conditions for public works projects. We believe Senate Bill 3 is a shortsighted solution to a non-existent problem -- a "solution" that will harm Wisconsin workers, taxpayers, and communities. In fact, this bill does not solve problems, it creates them.

One of the ways Senate Bill 3 may backfire is in costing taxpayers more in the long term by driving down wages and outsourcing jobs to less qualified workers. Banning local governments from considering PLAs might result in slightly less expensive bids coming in on the front end, but at what price long-term? These less expensive bids could result in lower wages paid to workers who are less trained, less skilled, and more likely to come from out of state. More Wisconsin workers could be out of work and struggle to support their families. Local economies may suffer when those workers contribute less to local businesses and the local tax base. And Wisconsin communities will pay a higher cost in the end when repairs are needed sooner due to poorer quality work done in the first place.

The bottom line is that the people of Wisconsin do not want inferior work done on local projects. They want their local tax dollars to pay for highly skilled construction workers who will do the job right the first time. They want their local tax dollars to go to paying workers who are personally invested in their communities. And they want their local elected officials to decide how their local tax dollars should be spent.

Please allow local elected officials to continue to use their local tax dollars to employ local workers as they believe best serves their local communities.

Thank you for considering our request to veto this bill. We hope you will put the people of Wisconsin ahead of partisan politics and veto this legislation.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District

State Rep. Tod Ohnstad
65th Assembly District

State Rep. David Bowen
10th Assembly District