



Rob Hutton

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Friends and Colleagues,

At the start of the legislative session I intend to reintroduce 2015 AB 32 to completely repeal the prevailing wage law. Last session, thanks to the efforts by Governor Walker, fellow legislators, and concerned citizens we were able to come away with an enormous reform that repealed the requirement for prevailing wage, except for state projects, starting in January 2017.

With a challenging upcoming biennial budget, which will potentially include significant investments in vertical and horizontal infrastructure, we have to continue giving taxpayers a voice by finding ways to fund projects as cost effectively as possible. Eliminating the prevailing wage requirement on all state funded projects will help accomplish this goal by removing archaic government formulas that artificially raise the cost of construction. This would open up projects to more competition, allowing for different designs and techniques that can be considered at lower costs.

Paired with prevailing wage repeal, I will be introducing legislation to reform project labor agreement (PLA) laws. PLA requirements serve as another barrier to free, open markets that promote competition and the best services for the state. While each PLA law is different, examples of the usual restrictions require a construction project to be awarded only to contractors and sub-contractors that agree to:

- Only hire employees from the local union hiring hall, even if the company has employees who are not members of the union.
- Pay into the union pension fund, even though its employees may never receive a union pension benefit.
- Recognize unions as the representatives of their employees on that job.
- Use the union hall to obtain workers.
- Obey union apprenticeship and work rules.

The intent of the legislation is not to ban PLA's outright as that is the right of builders and project owners to use if they want. Rather, the legislation prohibits the state or local municipalities from requiring the bidder to enter into a PLA in order to win or be considered for the bid. Like eliminating prevailing wage, this will allow for the opportunity for more contractors to bid on projects and provide the best rate for their completion.

Congratulations to everyone as you return to the Legislature! I look forward to discussing these and other initiatives that we can partner on throughout the session. If you have any questions on the two pieces of legislation please feel free to reach out to my office at any time.

Best Regards,



Rep. Rob Hutton
13th Assembly District