

My name is Meghan Portfolio and I am from Middletown, CT. I am asking you to vote no on Bill LCO No. 373.

Actually, a more appropriate name for this bill would be Quid Pro Toll.

It is outrageous, that you once again, are looking to raid the bank accounts of the residents of CT when you refuse to do anything about the states irresponsible spending. It is insulting to the taxpayers of this state that we are being asked again to sacrifice when this government refuses to address its spending addiction.

What concerns me the most in this bill is section 2 (h). You are here today saying you are having a revenue problem and our infrastructure is failing but this bill specifically calls prevailing wage or a rate established by the use of a project labor agreement. Why are we leaving open shop contractors out of this process? I find it suspicious that there is one member on this committee who is a former union president. What I find most concerning there will be 8 former and present union employees in the house and 4 in the Senate that will be voting on this. 11 members of the legislature received more than \$5000 in contributions from public sector employee unions. This is a clear conflict of interest and these members need to recuse themselves from this vote.

Problems with Project Labor Agreements

- Increase costs by mandating union wages and work rules and inhibiting competition
- Makes projects anti competitive because open shop contractors may choose not to bid because either their members would be required to join a union if the contractor wins the bid or the contractor would not be able to use its own workers.
- It is anti business by leaving out nonunion contractors and nonunion employees.
- You are not taking advantage on nonunion contractor training programs that may operate more efficiently and are job specific.
- PLA is not necessary because of existing prequalification procedures that screen contractors that bid on public projects.
- There is no evidence that shows that PLA construction projects are safer than non PLA projects

If I'm to believe what this government claims and we have a revenue problem. Then why are we choosing to spend more money than needed on these transportation projects? You either do not understand that utilizing only union contractors adds cost to a project or you are paying back favors to those that got you elected. You need to start making this government run more efficiently before you start sticking your hands into my wallet yet again.