



ARIZONA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

July 7, 2017

5808 N. 7th STREET
PHOENIX, AZ 85014
480.275.4553

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
Phoenix Office
411 N. Central Ave.
Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Re: S. 1200 – Opportunity in Federal Construction Act

Dear Congressman Gallego:

On behalf of the members of the Arizona Building and Construction Trades Council, I would like to bring to your attention the Opportunity in Federal Construction Act (OIFCA) introduced by U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) to replace the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA). Sen. Flake believes the legislation will ensure workers on federal construction projects will earn a fair wage, allow small businesses to better compete with unions for federal infrastructure contracts and help federal infrastructure dollars go further. The legislation attempts to mandate that the Department of Labor (DOL) use Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) data to determine prevailing wages for federal construction projects under the Depression-era DBA.

We urge you to vote NO and oppose this bill that would replace, and ultimately weaken the protection it provides to construction workers under the Davis-Bacon Act.

The DOL does not simply rely on union wage rates to set a prevailing wage. When initiating a wage survey, DOL sends out survey forms to interested parties and any contractors identified as working on projects in the survey area during the designated time period. Data may be submitted by any other contractors and interested parties. BLS data is also not updated regularly, and all skilled construction crafts have their own data. Additionally, the BLS data does not include any type of fringe benefit amount for workers.

We again request that you vote NO on the Opportunity in Federal Construction Act, which would be detrimental to Arizona construction workers and fair labor practices throughout the United States.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean Wine".

Dean Wine
President
Arizona Building and Construction Trades Council

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