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June 1, 2011

TO THE PEOPLE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY:

Your County Council is considering legislation (CB-16) which would demand that all construction projects over a certain dollar volume will be under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). This means that all the work will have to come under union rules. This would be devastating to Blacks and Hispanics.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 has been implemented for over 47 years and construction unions have yet to adequately integrate its membership. You get past the trades of concrete and general labor and you will find few if any Black or Hispanic population within the particular crafts. There should be an audit of Black and Hispanic journeymen in the crafts based in Prince George's County. You would be appalled. This should be done before any thought of having a PLA.

Those who support PLA's are either for segregation, ignorant or something worse. Please don't let them fool you with "great pre-apprentice programs". They have been playing this game since the 1970's and still there is no integration. 98% of Black contractors are non-union. To block them from working union free would be a great travesty to equal opportunity.

Please stop CB-16.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry C. Alford", with a small flourish at the end.

HARRY C. ALFORD  
President/CEO