



# UTILITY and TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



## Memorandum

**To:** Assemblyman Vincent Prieto, Chairman  
Members of the Assembly Budget Committee

**From:** Robert A. Briant, Jr., CEO  
Evan J. Piscitelli, Legislative Director

**Date:** January 21, 2013

**Re:** **Please Reconsider Support for A-3679 (Egan)**

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The Utility and Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey (UTCA/NJ), on behalf of its more than 1,000 member firms, respectfully urges the Chairman and Committee members to reconsider their support for **A-3679**, which extends the option of Project Labor Agreements **to projects currently excluded by law**, such as highways, bridges, pumping stations, and water and sewage treatment plants. The legislation, if approved, will mark a major reversal of the long standing compromise exempting infrastructure construction projects which underpins the original PLA law of 2002.

**A-3679** hurts union contractors by severely curtailing the control they currently possess over their work, the composition of their workforce, and the overall structure of the jobsite. It is particularly injurious when it comes to a contractor's bargaining power during labor negotiations which becomes severely limited when a PLA is in place. Very often, Project Labor Agreements give rise to union jurisdictional battles, bringing new trades onto the jobsite that would otherwise not be involved on infrastructure construction projects. The unions that are more traditionally found building our roads, bridges, and utilities and that are better trained and accustomed to the type of work that is being performed, would lose a major portion of their work as a result of the PLA.

UTCA/NJ respectfully urges your opposition to this bill. The legislative intent behind the original statute, and the specific agreement that was reached to exempt infrastructure construction agreed to by all parties, should not be overturned. Unlike the consensus that characterized the PLA compromise in 2002, **the entire industry is not currently in agreement** with the direction of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact our group if you have any questions.