**Tell Gov. Northam to Veto Anti-business Pro PLA and Prevailing Wage Legislation**

**Virginia residents:**

During the Virginia General Assembly’s 2020 session, legislators in Richmond swiftly advanced a handful of bills that would upend the construction industry.

While they failed to gut and repeal the Commonwealth’s right-to-work law protecting the state’s hardworking workforce, they have sent legislation to Gov. Northam’s desk allowing state and local governments to mandate project labor agreements (SB182/HB 358) on public works projects. In addition, the governor is considering other bills (SB 8/HB 833) mandating prevailing wage requirements on construction contracts exceeding $250,000 procured by state government, as well as allowing local governments to mandate prevailing wage requirements on public works projects like schools, affordable housing and other infrastructure improvements.

If these bills are signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam, the state’s construction industry, including SWaM businesses, will be hit especially hard along with Virginia’s economy and taxpayers. Government-mandated PLAs are discriminatory, costly schemes that will steer public works construction contracts to out-of-state union contractors and union workers at the expense of Virginia’s construction industry. In addition, prevailing wage requirements serve as a regulatory barrier to SWaM contractors and needlessly increase construction costs while hindering efficient investments in Virginia’s infrastructure and construction industry job creation.

**Urge Gov. Northam to veto these harmful bills today!**

**Suggested Email Message Subjects (Choose One):**

Veto SB 182/HB 358, SB 8/HB 833 to Save Virginia Jobs  
Veto SB 182/HB 358, SB 8/HB 833 to Support the Commonwealth’s Construction Industry  
Veto SB 182/HB 358, SB 8/HB 833 to Create Opportunities for Virginia’s SWaM Contractors

**Message Body:**

As a concerned Virginia resident and member of the construction industry, I strongly urge you to veto multiple bills passed by the Virginia General Assembly that will harm Virginia's small, women- and minority-owned (SWaM) businesses, deny opportunity to 97.8% of Virginia's skilled construction workforce and needlessly force taxpayers to pay more for fewer construction projects.

Legislation introduced by Sen. Richard L. Saslaw (SB 182) and Del. Alfonso Lopez (HB 358) will eliminate Virginia's Fair and Open Competition statute restricting government-mandated project labor agreements, or PLAs, and allow state and local governments to mandate anti-competitive and costly PLAs on public works construction projects procured by state and local governments.

When mandated by governments, PLAs discourage nonunion contractors and subcontractors-which employ 97.8% of Virginia's construction workforce from competing to build and work on projects funded by taxpayer dollars.

PLAs mandate that nonunion contractors follow union work rules, hire workers from union halls and pay into union benefit plans on behalf of employees even if workers are unlikely to receive these benefits. PLAs cause nonunion workers (and some union workers) to lose an estimated 20% in wages and benefits unless they join a specific union, pay membership dues and meet the union benefits plan's vesting requirements.

Moreover, PLAs drive up construction costs by an estimated 12% to 20%, which in the end hurts the Commonwealth’s taxpayers or results in the construction of fewer roads, bridges, schools, affordable housing, transportation and infrastructure improvements

Additionally, legislation introduced by Sen. Saslaw (SB 8) and Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (HB 833) would result in prevailing wage requirements on all state public works construction projects greater than $250,000, and allow local governments procuring local public works construction projects to require prevailing wages at rates set by the U.S. Department of Labor, via the 1931 Davis-Bacon Act.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Government Accountability Office has concluded DOL's wage determination process is unscientific and fundamentally flawed, because it typically sets rates that are anything but local, prevailing, timely or accurate. Coupled with reducing competition and increasing compliance and regulatory burdens on businesses, it is no surprise the track record of prevailing wage laws in other states suggests it will result in increasing construction costs by 10% to 25%, which Virginia simply cannot afford.

The net impact of both of these proposals is that it will lead to state and local tax hikes or fewer public works construction projects in Virginia, needlessly increase construction costs and steer contracts to out-of-state unionized businesses and unionized workers at the expense of certified SWaM contractors and 97.8% of Virginia's construction workforce.

Please support the Commonwealth’s taxpayers, SWaM contracting community and construction industry by vetoing these bills. Sending a message to the General Assembly that Virginia’s taxpayers and construction industry comes first is the best way to keep the Commonwealth competitive and address all state and local government infrastructure needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

X

**Targeted Lawmaker Addresses for bcc of email:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Official** | **Jurisdiction** | **District** | **Email** |
| Governor Ralph Northam | VA | 0 | <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/communicating-with-the-governors-office/> |
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