



Ohio Construction Coalition

## “News Blast”

December 11, 2006

[www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org](http://www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org)

### **O.C.C. MONITORING SCHOOLS PREVAILING WAGE ITEM IN CAPITAL BUDGET, URGES MEMBERS TO BE PROACTIVE**

A provision in the new \$1.78 billion capital budget bill (House Bill 699) would prohibit the Ohio School Facilities Commission (O.S.F.C.) from funding any school building contracts that require prevailing wage. Currently, the state’s \$2 million-per-day school construction program under the O.S.F.C. only exempts and does not require districts from requiring prevailing wage, although the O.S.F.C. has threatened in the past to pull its funding from districts that have desired to use prevailing wage rules.

**The O.C.C. calls on its member associations and all those interested in the welfare of the state’s school construction program to distribute information to state decision-makers and legislators about the negative effects the absence of prevailing wages has had on school construction projects across the state.** The O.C.C. has numerous information resources – including its Prevailing Wage booklet, which includes multiple examples of O.S.F.C. problems and failures. Please contact the O.C.C. at [info@ohioconstructioncoalition.org](mailto:info@ohioconstructioncoalition.org) or visit its Web site at [www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org](http://www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org) for booklets.

The capital budget, which also includes \$698.6 million for school facilities projects under the O.S.F.C. and \$526.6 million in higher education facilities, is scheduled to undergo a series of hearings in front of the House’s Finance Committee and is expected to move quickly through the legislature in the next few weeks before it adjourns.

### **O.C.C.’s FRONTIER SCHOOLS LEGAL PROJECT IS ADVANCING**

With the recent donations of additional funding, the O.C.C. has been able to continue its efforts to assist Frontier Local School District in Southern Ohio with legal action against the O.S.F.C. over the faulty construction of the district’s new schools.

The O.C.C. still needs to raise the bulk of at least \$50,000 in the coming months for a community fund for Frontier to continue its battle against the O.S.F.C. Contributions initially will go toward retaining the services of the law firm Cosme, D’Angelo and Szollosi as it prepares the district’s case against the O.S.F.C.

**Funds should be made out to “Ohio Construction Coalition” and the memo on the check should read “Frontier Legal Project;” send to Ohio Construction Coalition, 1845 Collingwood, Toledo, OH 43624.**

Contact O.C.C. co-chair Bill Brennan at 419-241-3601 for more information and to make your commitment to help. To **report any school construction problems and successes** in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at [info@ohioconstructioncoalition.org](mailto:info@ohioconstructioncoalition.org) or 1-888-445-8255.

### **O.C.C. ADDRESSES STATE BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

The O.C.C. made a formal presentation during the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Conference on Dec. 4 in Dayton about the O.C.C.’s past successes, present activities and future plans. Chuck Graft, O.C.C. board member and I.B.E.W. 4<sup>th</sup> District representative, addressed the conference and showed a PowerPoint show featuring information about the O.C.C.

An information table with brochures and O.C.C. products such as the Prevailing Wage booklet was set up in the lobby outside the conference room.

## **OCC REMINDS ITS AFFILIATES TO JOIN EFFORT TO SAVE S.A.C.**

The O.C.C. continues to ask its member organizations to help spread the word and take action on preserving the **Ohio State Apprenticeship Council (S.A.C.)**, which for political and financial reasons is in danger of being disbanded and replaced by the less-effective Bureau of Apprentice Training (B.A.T.). Government funding for the S.A.C., which is about \$1.5 million, will end June 20, 2007, as it has been eliminated from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services budget for 2008/2009.

O.C.C. member the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council is leading the charge to save the S.A.C. In order for the S.A.C. to continue to operate, a bill for the funds needs to be sponsored or the funding needs to be attached to another bill. Also, the Building Trades Council needs to collect \$30 per apprentice as a “matching” fund (of about \$300,000) for the state funding.

These steps can be accomplished through the State Building Trades Council’s informational and education campaign. On the OCC Web site ([www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org](http://www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org)) are materials from the OSBCTC to assist anyone with this effort, including talking points, S.A.C. information and sample letters. Also, please contact **OSBCTC Secretary-Treasurer Gary Dwyer** at (614) 221-3682 for additional information.

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