

Ohio Construction Coalition
“News Fax-Blaster”
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To: All OCC Partners

State Budget Line Item RESTORED by Conference Committee, preserving method to file Prevailing Wage complaints
After Senate passed budget, OCC urged committee to consider potential problems

The State Legislature’s Conference Committee on Sunday accepted the modified version of the Senate- and House-passed State Budget, voting to **NOT INCLUDE** line-item deletions that would have eliminated “certain parties” – amounting to the contractors and subcontractors working on public projects – from being allowed to file Prevailing Wage complaints in the state.

The Conference Committee, which is charged with working out differences in the Budget before it is to be signed by the governor on June 30, was made up of Sen. John A. Carey Jr. (R-Wellston), Sen. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster), Sen. Tom Roberts (D-Dayton), Rep. Tom Raga (R-Mason), Rep. Charles Calvert (R-Medina) and Rep. Dale Miller (D-Cleveland).

Reports are that Rep. Tom Patton (R) of Strongsville played a large role in having the language restored.

Among the efforts undertaken to alert legislators, the media and the public about the adverse effects of the proposed elimination of the prevailing wage language, the OCC circulated statistics refuting claims that there were an inordinate amount of “frivolous” prevailing wage complaints compiled by OCC legal counsel Matt Szollosi.

OCC submits Responsible Contracting law language to Republican legislator

OCC members from around the state met a few weeks ago with State Rep. Jimmy Stewart, a Republican from Athens, to discuss his sponsoring a bill for Responsible Contracting in school construction.

Mr. Stewart agreed to consider submitting legislation that would require the state receive verifiable drug testing mandates from all contractors working on school projects.

Today, the OCC submitted to Mr. Stewart a memorandum that contains sample language for such a bill and background information for similar laws around the country.

OCC continues to work on statewide reorganization plans

Following May and June meetings of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council’s Statewide Labor-Management Steering Committee and OCC leaders to continue working on the details of forming a new, more all-encompassing OCC, a Budget Committee of two labor-side representatives and two management-side reps met for the first time earlier this month.

The committee will meet again in early July – before the entire “new” OCC’s committee meets again July 13 – to finish formulating a plan of action and corresponding budget, which it will present to the entire OCC board.

As the Ohio Construction Coalition works to make a substantial difference in the state’s construction industry, the OCC has sent this “News Fax-Blaster” to you to help keep you informed and involved. Please submit information for and questions about News Fax-Blasters to Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group, the OCC’s communications firm, at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255.