

I disagree with the position of LOC. It is very important that we as a community recognize the importance of family wages and the other benefits such as health care and retirement that projects categorized under the Davis-Bacon Act are required. In today's market place for construction projects, prevailing wage for construction workers are actually paid out at 2 to 3 years behind the current wage scales. This in fact makes these projects less expensive in terms of labor costs than other private sector jobs. Contractors who pay their employees even less, demand lessor skilled workers and/or turn a blind eye to drug users that are prevented from participating with reputable contractors who hold these values.

I know it's an incredible challenge to look away from "the bottom line" when seeing that there may be a lower bidder for the contracts we let out, but it's so much more important to recognize value. Prevailing wage provided under the Davis Bacon Act prevents sub-standard contractors from cheating the public out of the quality of construction that is afforded by a level set of standards. Even though HB2408-A is directed toward private construction projects, when public money is used, then public interests apply.

Mark Crenshaw

Mayor of the city of Junction City