

News Release



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For Immediate Release

Associated Builders and Contractors Commends Passage of PLA Reform in Missouri

KANSAS CITY, MO., May 30 – Associated Builders and Contractors Heart of America Chapter (ABC HOA) today commended the signing of legislation by Governor Eric Greitens (R-Mo.) that will guarantee fair and open competition on taxpayer-funded construction projects in the state of Missouri.

Governor Greitens today signed SB 182 into law, which prohibits government entities from requiring contractors to enter into wasteful and discriminatory project labor agreements (PLAs) as a condition of performing work on publicly-funded construction projects. The Missouri Senate passed SB 182 on Feb. 16 by a vote of 23-9 and the Missouri House by a vote of 104-52 on Apr. 27.

“By prohibiting these costly and unnecessary mandates on publicly funded construction projects, this legislation will ensure that every qualified bidder in the state of Missouri and their skilled craft professionals are given a fair chance to participate in the public procurement process,” said ABC HOA President Michele Roberts-Bauer. “Studies show PLA mandates drive up the cost of public construction projects between 12 to 18 percent. Associated Builders and Contractors appreciates the leadership shown by bill sponsors Sen. Bob Onder and Rep. Rob Vescovo in crafting this needed legislation to increase competition and provide better value to taxpayers by allowing all qualified Missouri contractors to compete on a level playing field to work on taxpayer-funded projects.”

“Our leaders in the legislature also articulated the need for a better business environment in Missouri leading up to last November’s historic election, and the voters agreed with this message by electing a governor, and majorities in the House and Senate, who support the merit shop principles of free enterprise,” said Roberts-Bauer. “The actions taken by the voters and our legislature demonstrate the growing consensus that PLA mandates are bad public policy because they hurt taxpayers and the vast majority of construction workers who choose not to join a labor union.”

A PLA is a job-specific union collective bargaining agreement which effectively steers construction contracts to unionized firms and a unionized workforce. PLAs typically require contractors to use the union hiring hall to obtain workers at the expense of existing qualified employees; obtain apprentices through union

apprenticeship programs; follow inefficient union work rules; pay into union benefit and multi-employer pension plans; and force workers to pay union dues and/or join a union as a condition of employment.

When mandated on publicly funded construction projects, PLAs make it nearly impossible for the vast majority of the construction workforce that chooses not to join a union to compete fairly for projects funded by their own tax dollars. In Missouri, nearly 75 percent of the private construction workforce chooses not to join a labor organization.

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Associated Builders and Contractors Heart of America Chapter is a Kansas and Missouri trade association representing commercial and industrial construction and construction-related firms who are dedicated to providing the Heart of America with high-quality, affordable, safe and on-time construction.