

Testimony for Public Hearing
Senate Committee on Labor and Regulatory Reform
January 25, 2017

William Carroll
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S.B. 3 - Relating to: project labor agreements and public contracts.

Good Morning Assembly Committee Members. My name is Bill Carroll, I am the President and a Business Representative for Teamsters Local 344. I am also the Political and Legislative Coordinator for Teamsters Joint Council 39. I am here today representing Teamsters Joint Council 39, which is the governing body for all Teamsters Local Unions in the State of Wisconsin, and collectively, hold a membership of roughly 20,000 hard working men and women.

We are here in opposition to SB 3, and ask that you to reject this bill.

We are opposed to SB 3 for the following reasons:

- Teamsters members work in many industries in our State including in the construction industry. This Bill would erode wages and working conditions for hundreds of Teamsters Families and negatively affect many more thousands of working men and women in the construction industry across the State.
- Union involvement in PLA's have been helpful for large projects by promoting labor stability and skilled labor access, as well as a greater chance of a project being done with

fewer unwanted surprises, higher quality and finished on time and at or under budget using local workers.

- This bill can only serve to handcuff the State or Municipality who may recognize the value of a Union Labor PLA in some instances, but will be prevented from entering into one because this proposed unnecessary government regulation has outlawed it.
- We don't believe SB 3 will result in the cost savings that proponents claim it will. We do believe that wage reductions for workers in the construction industry will be real and they will be harsh.

I am not certain if a fiscal estimate has been submitted yet, so I'm not sure what the cost savings, if any, are projected to be. I would hope the Legislative fiscal bureau takes into account the potential lost revenue due to lower income taxes from workers and the potential additional cost to taxpayers because of increased need for public assistance for what will become full time working poor in affected construction jobs.

You may believe this assessment of SB 3 is unnecessarily negative; however, when you combine SB3 with last year's prevailing wage repeal and outlawing Union Security Agreements in 2015 (Right to Work), a downward spiral for wages and working conditions is inevitable for all workers; but even more so in the construction industry.

Lastly, I hear a lot of talk coming out of State Government about how there is a skilled worker shortage, particularly in the trades, and question that college may not be the best path for some. I would ask this committee, and any of SB 3's sponsors how legislation like this that decreases wages and working conditions for men and women working in these trades provides any incentive to attract new, quality talent. It didn't take long for a teacher

shortage to develop due to Act 10 and the resulting loss of wages and working conditions.

SB 3 will put us on a similar path in the construction industry.

Teamsters Joint Council urges you to reject SB 3 and the big government over-regulation that it represents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William Carroll, Political and Legislative Coordinator
Teamsters Joint Council 39