

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chair, Committee on Education
& the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on
Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Foxx and Representative Scott:

On behalf of the Construction Employers of America (CEA) and the 15,000 signatory contractors and 1.4 million employees we represent, we write to advise you of our strong opposition to H.R. 720, the “Davis-Bacon Repeal Act.” Rather than providing any benefits to taxpayers or the economy, repealing Davis-Bacon will do nothing more than create a race to the bottom in the construction industry to the detriment of working men and women across this country.

The CEA is made up of seven employer associations that represent construction firms that utilize union craftworkers. Our members adhere to the highest standards and provide superior wages and benefits—including health insurance, pensions, and investments in worker safety and training—and are committed to working to strengthen the construction industry and provide opportunities for our workers. Our members’ efforts help provide the best value to project owners while securing high-value compensation and benefits for workers, their families, and their communities.

The Davis-Bacon Act was enacted more than 90 years ago to provide a level playing field for local construction workers, working for local contractors and subcontractors, by protecting those local workers and employers from losing out on federal projects to “outside contractors...who recruited labor from distant cheap labor areas.” Specifically, the Act requires that on most federally funded projects, workers are to be paid a minimum of the prevailing wage for the area in which the work will be performed as determined by the Department of Labor.

The Davis-Bacon Act’s guarantee of prevailing wages not only benefits workers, their families, and their communities, it also supports the types of quality workforce training, project safety, and productivity that prevents delays, repairs, and re-dos of projects and the associated costs they entail. In so doing, the Act provides taxpayers with the best long-term value by ensuring that federally funded projects are built to the highest standards using skilled and well-trained construction craftspeople. Efforts to repeal Davis-Bacon are misguided. This is why previous efforts to repeal the law have faced bipartisan opposition and failed, and why we urge the Committee to reject H.R. 720.

Sincerely,

The Construction Employers of America
www.constructionemployersofamerica.com

FCA International
International Council of Employers of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
Mechanical Contractors Association of America
National Electrical Contractors Association
Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance
The Association of Union Constructors