

House of Representatives
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Regular Session 2009

Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO
ON SB 1125, SD2, RELATING TO PROCUREMENT**

SB 1125, SD2, requires all offerors and subcontractors for construction contracts subject to the state procurement code to maintain or participate in a bona fide, state-approved apprenticeship program at the time of general bidding. **The United Public Workers, Local 646, supports this measure.**

This is first and foremost a safety issue. There is widespread appreciation for apprenticeship programs for their role in not only providing qualified skills training but also for their emphasis on work safety. With funds from the federal economic stimulus package on a “use it or lose it” condition and guided by an accelerated timeline, there may be a rush to award contracts to bidders regardless of the experience or skill of its workers. This measure ensures that our state will be provided with an efficient, well-trained, safety-minded workforce on projects with a value of \$250,000 or more.

For this reason we urge the passage of SB 1125, SD2.