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March 1, 2018

RE: Item #18-1604 – Of the Prevailing Wage Ordinance Substitute for the County Finance Committee

Dear Distinguished County Board Members:

My name is Dan Allen. I am the Executive Director of the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO). I am speaking today on behalf of the 8,000 union contractors and the 140,000 skilled union men and women which CISCO represents to convey our steadfast support of Prevailing Wage legislation.

A recent independent study by the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign School of Labor and Employment Relations revealed the following facts, and economic and social impacts regarding prevailing wage in Illinois:

- Prevailing Wage does not lead to any increase in costs of public construction jobs.
- Repeal of PWL would result in job losses throughout the state, Illinois GDP would fall by well over a billion dollars annually, more than \$44 million in lost state and local taxes, and roughly \$116 million lost in federal tax revenue.
- On-the-job fatalities in states that do not have Prevailing Wage Laws are 14 – 26% higher.
- Many construction workers would lose their work-related benefits.
- Union apprenticeship training programs, which are currently the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest privately funded educational system in the country, would fall by as much as 40%, worsening an already skilled work force shortage seen in many parts of the country.

If that isn't enough facts to sway one's opinion, Indiana Republican House Majority Leader Ed Soliday summed it up perfectly in a recent video after Indiana repealed their prevailing law in 2015. "We got rid of Prevailing Wage and so far it hasn't saved us a single penny."

Given the well documented income and wage disparity in the country, the last thing struggling middle class families need is another obstacle. Support of prevailing wage provides job safety, a lifetime of training, insures a diverse work force, and can help middle class families when it is desperately needed.

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SERVICE CORPORATION

The taxpayer values are so evident. Work is performed safely, on time, and on budget. More importantly the job is done by local contractors, purchasing supplies locally, and using what has been proven to be the most highly trained skilled diverse in the country.

If you doubt it, all you have to do is look up and see all of the spectacular buildings and infrastructure that have been built in Cook County in the past 10 years. We are strongly in favor of Item #18-1604, and urge you to vote to approve the ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dan Allen  
Executive Director