



Prevailing Wage Reform Resolution No. 8 of 2012 in Support of House Bill 1329

A resolution of the county of Clarion, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to amend the state Prevailing Wage Act (Act 442 of 1961).

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act requires that workers on public construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, and/or repair projects with an estimated cost greater than \$25,000 be paid a wage set by the Secretary of Labor and Industry rather than local market rates; and

WHEREAS, this threshold has not been updated since the 1960s, even though costs have increased since that time, to the point that it captures virtually all public construction projects undertaken by counties; and

WHEREAS, prevailing wage requirements can increase the cost of many middle-range projects, generally by 10 to 15 percent depending on the region in which the project is being done, and as much as 20 to 30 percent in some rural areas, since prevailing wages are typically based on metropolitan areas where costs and wages are comparatively higher; and

WHEREAS, because of the financial challenges counties are experiencing, finding enough money to keep up with general repairs and maintenance is already an ongoing challenge, and adding another 10 or 15 percent estimated cost to some of these projects by requiring prevailing wages means some simply will not get done; and

WHEREAS, reforms would then allow at least a portion of these state dollars to be used more effectively to address additional repairs to local bridges, as well as reduce the burden on local property tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, Clarion County would be able to undertake several projects without prevailing wages if the threshold were increased to \$185,000 to adjust for inflation, reducing costs for projects such as roads, bridges, and general construction; and

WHEREAS, any reforms to the Prevailing Wage Act not only have a critical impact on county budgets, but would also assist the state in using taxpayer dollars more strategically for the good of the entire Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania supports relief for counties from Prevailing Wage Act requirements, including increasing the threshold for prevailing wage projects or allowing a local option; and



WHEREAS, HB 1329 (Session of 2011) would, if adopted, increase the prevailing wage threshold from \$25,000 to \$185,000, and adjust this amount annually based on the Consumer Price Index; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the County of Clarion supports increasing the prevailing wage threshold to adjust for cost increases that have occurred since the Prevailing Wage Act was enacted nearly 40 years ago; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the General Assembly be urged to support and pass House Bill 1329, as well as any other proposal that offers relief to Pennsylvania's local governments and taxpayers from the burdens of the Prevailing Wage Act.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Clarion, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 24th day of April, 2012.

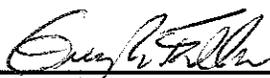
CLARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Wayne R. Brosius, Chairman



G. Butch Campbell



Gregory A. Faller

ATTEST:

Anjanette M. Keller, Chief Clerk