



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

March 15, 2024

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 3,500 construction firms specializing in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction in public and private markets throughout the United States. **On behalf of SMACNA, I want to express our strong opposition H.R. 720 sponsored by Rep. Good (R-VA) that would repeal the Davis-Bacon Act.** By opposing this misguided legislative effort, you are supporting construction workforce training quality, public project safety and productivity. Prevailing wage laws and registered apprenticeship standards are important to our thousands of firms and their hundreds of thousands of highly skilled construction trades employees. SMACNA members and allied quality driven contractors understand that any major investment in public infrastructure should recognize the extreme importance and merit in prevailing wages as part of any quality based public procurement policy. As you may know, enforcing Federal, state, and local prevailing wage laws encourage employers to:

- Pay a locally prevailing wage and offer health care coverage to their employees and their families.
- Provide for the future retirement of their employees and
- Make a significant investment in the **registered apprenticeship** training and safety programs.

From decades of experience SMACNA member firms understand the merit in a public procurement policy that encourages employers to provide a skilled workforce quality wages, benefits, and training. Further, we know that continuing federal commitment to the payment of prevailing wages and benefits **should not be cast as a union versus nonunion issue.** According to many Department of Labor reports, most Davis-Bacon wage decisions for federal projects pay less than the union wage. First-rate construction industry firms should not be disadvantaged when bidding federal projects because they offer their employees locally prevailing wages, health care, pensions and offer expensive registered apprenticeship training programs.

Again, we strongly oppose H.R. 720 and other legislative efforts to undermine the Davis-Bacon Act or state and local prevailing wage standards. Further, we offer to provide you additional background information should you have questions on why enforcing prevailing wage and benefit standards better serves construction quality, productivity, skilled workforce training and safety on all public projects.

Sincerely,

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