

October 3, 2017

Chairman Tuma and Members of the Public Works Committee:

The Construction Employers Association, (CEA) is a multi-trade association of 160 construction related companies, based in Cleveland. Since 1916, CEA has represented the best in commercial and industrial construction. The contractors CEA represents employ roughly 7,000 skilled tradespersons and 1,500 office/management personnel in Northeast Ohio. CEA has been and will continue to be active in safety training, mentorship programs, labor relations, diversity and inclusion efforts, and promotion of industry best practices.

**CEA respectfully is neutral on 2017-0004.** We understand the need to provide some flexibility for NON public improvement contractors and are neutral on the changes in the bill as the introduced version is not focused on the construction industry.

**With that being said, CEA respectfully requests that the rest of the existing provisions of 501.15 remain unchanged and strong for the construction industry and those doing public improvement projects.**

In 2011, over multiple hearings CEA worked with Councilman Miller and others on this Committee and Council to establish section 501.15. We were also able to work with Councilman Schron on construction reform and harmonizing code sections. CEA was and continues to be very thankful for this hard work and requests these provisions stay in law. CEA knows it is important to produce quality work and protect the County from vendors that might not have the County's best interest in mind. Current code lists thirteen criteria:

- Drug Free Work Place
- BWC rating
- Equal Opportunity law
- Prevailing Wage
- No debarment for Prevailing Wage violations
- No certified payroll falsification / violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act
- No violations of unemployment / workers compensation law
- No unsatisfied judgments
- Work under correct supervisor
- Required licensures
- Trade work can't be subcontracted for more than 25% of labor, unless certain provisions are met
- Allowing the Inspector General to perform its functions
- Subcontractors criteria to perform at execution of sub-contract

CEA supports keeping these provisions strong in law. Current law provides safeguards for workers, standards for companies, and protection to the County all of which we see as very beneficial.

Thank you for your consideration.



Tim Linville  
Chief Executive Officer