



New Jersey Chapter

Contact: Patrick Stewart
Phone: 609-989-9110
Email: pstewart@njpsi.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIMPLY PUT: PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS INCREASE TAXES ABC Chairman Urges Governor to Save Taxpayer Dollars by Eliminating PLA's

The Chairman of the Associated Builders and Contractors of NJ, Craig Alper, recently sent a letter to Governor Christie requesting a change in legislation regarding Project Labor Agreements. His letter conveyed the ABC's belief that state, county and local governments can save taxpayer dollars by eliminating the practice of union only Project Labor Agreements on publicly funded construction projects.

Alper referenced the most recent report by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, published in June 2009 and commissioned by the Corzine Administration, as showing the cost of building a school using a PLA to be 34.2% higher than a non-PLA project. In addition, he translated for the Governor the increased building cost into \$10,271 more per student, or \$62.78 more per square foot.

New Jersey is in a state of fiscal crisis. Budgets are being slashed across the board as revenues decline. The ABC strongly believes that the State should be encouraging open competition in all taxpayer funded projects, with no preference given to a special interest group or union. This initiative will drive down costs and the taxpayers of NJ will receive a much needed savings.

In closing Alper stated, "The solution is simple; ban taxpayer funded Project Labor Agreements immediately."

The Associated Builders and Contractors of NJ is one of 70 chapters of a national association representing 23,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms across the United States. ABC's mission is the advancement of the merit shop construction philosophy, which encourages open competition and a free-enterprise approach that awards contracts based solely on merit, regardless of labor affiliation.

###

If you would like more information about the ABC's position on Project Labor Agreements, please call Patrick Stewart at 609-989-9110 or pstewart@njpsi.com.

[Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey](http://www.abcnjc.org)
414 River View Plaza Trenton, NJ 08611 609-989-9110
www.abcnjc.org