

HB 1406 -- PREVAILING WAGE IN DISASTER AREA

SPONSOR: White

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 7 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 6 to 1.

This bill prohibits the Missouri Housing Development Commission from requiring a prevailing hourly wage to be paid to a contractor on a project eligible for a housing tax credit when in a Governor declared disaster area.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that we need low income housing to be built after disasters, but prevailing wage prevents that from happening. Supporters say that this would increase economic activity in the area and it would be great for boosting the economy.

Testifying for the bill were Representative White and Missouri Chamber Of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that there were people who were cheating the prevailing wage system, so those who were here working were not paid the prevailing wage when they were supposed to be. That does not mean there is a problem with prevailing wage itself. This bill would incentivize people to come from out of state to take jobs from people here, and the quality of work will decrease significantly. Union workers want a level playing field and prevailing wage is the way to accomplish that objective.

Testifying against the bill were St. Louis Building Trades Council; Missouri AFL-CIO; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562; Construction Employers Coalition; Carpenters Council Of St. Louis And Kansas City; Associated General Contractors Of Missouri; SMACNA St. Louis; Plumbing Industry Council; Missouri Association Of Plumbing, Heating, And Cooling Contractors; American Subcontractors Association; Missouri Laborers` Legislative Committee; Mechanical Contractors Association Of Kansas City; Mechanical Contractors Association-Eastern Missouri; Sheet Metal/Air/Rail/Transportation (SMART); St. Louis Chapter National Electrical Contractors Association; International Union Of Painters And Allied Trades District Council# 3; and International Union Of Painters And Allied Trades District Council #58.