



SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

October 25, 2023

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 support for the recently issued and long overdue final rules to modernize and simplify compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. (attached statement).** By supporting the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division multi-year effort to produce comprehensively updated final rules, 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 public and private market contracting 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 of a highly trained and skilled workforce. 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 skilled construction careers as well as the future retirement of their employees and
- Make significant essential investments in DOL **registered apprenticeship** training and safety programs.

Our members have many decades of experience helping build and maintain the most complex Federal projects, including those on Capitol Hill and throughout the Executive Branch. SMACNA member firms understand the merit in creating a skilled workforce by providing quality wages, benefits, and training. Further, we know that the payment of prevailing wages and benefits **should not be cast as a union versus nonunion issue.** According to Department of Labor reports, most Davis-Bacon wage decisions have paid less than the union wage. First-rate construction industry firms should not be disadvantaged when bidding federal projects against unscrupulous competitors because they offer their highly skilled and trained employees locally prevailing wages, health care, pensions and invest in the “Gold Standard” in registered apprenticeship programs.

**Again, we strongly support DOL’s long overdue modernization and simplification of the Davis-Bacon Act rules and other legislative efforts to enhance compliance with the Act’s prevailing wage standards.**

Enforcing prevailing wage and benefit standards better serves construction quality, productivity, skilled workforce training and safety on all public projects. The Federal government, the taxpayer and quality contractors on federal projects deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr.  
Executive Director, Governmental and Political Affairs



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