



AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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February 19, 2013

The Honorable Chris Christie
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie,

On behalf of Americans for Limited Government (ALG), I am writing to urge you to veto any legislation that requires the state of New Jersey to award project labor agreements (PLAs) for Hurricane Sandy reconstruction projects.

A conservative estimate by Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University has found comparing the period when PLAs were prohibited under federal law to when they were not that “PLAs increase the cost of construction by 12% to 18%.” If they are used, that will mean less bang for the buck — anywhere from 10.7% to 15.2% less reconstruction would occur in New Jersey as a result.

As you are well aware, your own Department of Labor and Workforce Development found that public school construction utilizing PLAs cost 30.5% more than non-PLA construction projects. If accurate, that would mean an even worse 23.3% less reconstruction would occur if PLAs are utilized, hardly a responsible use of limited resources.

To make matters worse, the New Jersey study found that projects took considerably more time to complete. At a time when the citizens of New Jersey desperately long to get back to normal, construction delays combined with less bang for the buck should be unacceptable to everyone.

This simple math shows that PLAs are not in the public interest, nor that of taxpayers'. They are solely in the interest of labor organizations that will make more money if they are utilized. This leaves you with the choice of favoring spending more money to achieve less as a result in terms of reconstruction, or to veto this legislation, achieving more for the taxpayers at a lower cost.

Your support of previous measures to save taxpayer money on expensive union contracts would stand in stark contrast to a decision to sign S2425, leaving you with the only reasonable choice for taxpayers and those still suffering from Sandy's devastating impact, which is to veto this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William Wilson
President
Americans for Limited Government