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Rep. Sanfelippo supports new prevailing wage reform plan

MADISON, Wis. – State Rep. Joe Sanfelippo, R-New Berlin, is putting his support behind a prevailing wage reform plan being proposed by Sen. Frank Lasee and Rep. Rob Hutton.

“While I co-authored a bill this session repealing the prevailing wage law, I accept the fact that differences in opinion are preventing us from passing that legislation. As a result, I fully support the Lasee-Hutton plan,” Sanfelippo said. “I favor the proposal that gets us closest to full repeal, and right now this is that proposal.”

The package presented by Lasee and Hutton would exempt local governments, school districts, technical colleges and public utilities from paying the artificially inflated prevailing wage for public projects. It also would maintain the current state thresholds, use federal prevailing wage rates for state projects and remove Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development administration from the law.

“I owned a landscaping company for the better part of 20 years, so I know first-hand the financial harm prevailing wage laws cause to our taxpayer-funded projects,” Sanfelippo said. “This plan will produce substantial savings for taxpayers and it also goes a long way in removing the barriers that make it difficult for small and minority-owned firms to participate in public contracts.”

Sanfelippo says local governments in his district have strongly advocated for full repeal of prevailing wage. The New Berlin Board of Education estimates a repeal of prevailing wage would save taxpayers there between \$800,000 and \$1 million on several upcoming projects.

A study by the Wisconsin Taxpayer Alliance shows the state spent about \$250 million more for public projects in 2014 because of the prevailing wage law.

“We need to protect Wisconsin from this antiquated law that hurts all taxpayers,” Sanfelippo said. “I encourage all my legislative colleagues to back the Lasee-Hutton proposal.”

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