



# Tod Ohnstad

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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July 9, 2015

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
Madison, WI

Dear Governor Walker,

On behalf of the hardworking men and women of the 65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in the state of Wisconsin, I respectfully request you veto the changes to Wisconsin's long-standing prevailing wage laws currently included in the 2015-17 state budget bill.

The proposed changes to our state's prevailing wage laws will have truly disastrous consequences for our working people and our communities in myriad ways. They will drive down wages at a time when many are working hard to stay in the middle class and others are struggling to get there. Wisconsin jobs will be put at risk, as these prevailing wage changes will remove important protections. Several from the coalition of over 400 contractors opposed to this change have said it may well signal their demise. No longer will these construction jobs be sure to go to Wisconsin contractors and construction workers; instead, out-of-state firms will have greater opportunity to bring in low-wage workers from outside our state borders, who have no larger investment in doing high-quality, efficient work for the sake of our state in the long-term.

By their statements during the last few weeks of the budget process, legislative Republicans say they added changes to Wisconsin's prevailing wage laws to the budget in the name of saving taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, their claims simply don't add up. Indeed, the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau says the changes would create little to no savings because, when less skilled workers take more time to complete projects or projects need repair sooner, projects costs will go up despite a lower wage being paid.

Mr. Governor, at a time when Wisconsin has more people falling out of the middle class than any other state in the nation, repealing prevailing wage and thus lowering wages for thousands of Wisconsinites is mean-spirited and unacceptable.

Again, I respectfully request you seriously consider of the disastrous economic consequences of these prevailing wage changes for Wisconsin's private businesses, contractors and residents who have said over and over Wisconsin's current prevailing wage system works well. Please veto these unnecessary, harmful components of the budget.

Sincerely,

Tod Ohnstad  
65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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65<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

