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February 26, 2007

Dear Members of the Senate and Assembly Labor Committees:

**RE: Support S-2458 (Madden) & A-3889 (Egan / Van Drew / Scalera)  
Strengthens the Prevailing Wage Act Concerning Debarred Contractors**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports S-2458 / A-3889 and respectfully asks for your support. This legislation ends a practice that debarred contractors use in order to continue bidding on public works projects. This practice allows these contractors to circumvent the Prevailing Wage Law and to continue "business as usual" by simply creating a new business entity which in "name only" is no longer on the debarment list, but in practice often has the same management as well as operating in the same manner as the previous company.

These types of contractors are not only violating the spirit of the Prevailing Wage Act, but are flagrantly misleading Department of Labor officials. This leads to unlawful access to the public bidding process and also adversely affects workers by allowing contractors with a history of Prevailing Wage violations to continue to cheat workers of wages dictated by law.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO applauds the sponsors for proposing this legislation which is long overdue in order to insulate the Prevailing Wage Law from this fraudulent practice. Thank you for attention to this matter and we respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech  
President

Laurel Brennan  
Secretary/Treasurer

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