TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House State Government Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: March 13, 2018

RE: Support HB 1849

I write on behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry to urge your support for H.B.1849, which would prohibit project labor agreements in Pennsylvania. The Committee is scheduled to consider this legislation today.

A project labor agreement requires a company to commit to use unionized labor as a prerequisite to be considered for work on a public construction project. These policies force companies whose employees are not members of a union to either forgo bidding on a public project or be forced to hire workers from a union hall rather than allow their own employees to work on the job. This practice is simply unfair and discriminates against a significant portion of private sector employees who are not represented by a union.

The Commonwealth and municipalities ought to consider bids for public projects based on merit and cost effectiveness. Project labor agreements, on the other hand, have been shown to raise projects costs with no discernible benefit to quality of the work or staying on schedule.

We urge you to support H.B. 1849. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-720-5471 with any questions or to discuss.