



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House of Representatives
FROM: Alex Halper, VP, Government Affairs
DATE: October 18, 2023
RE: Oppose H.B. 1449 – Disqualifying Pennsylvania construction companies

On behalf of the PA Chamber, I urge you to oppose H.B. 1449, related to standards for public works contractors, which the House may consider today.

This bill represents a paradigm shift in how the Commonwealth manages state construction projects and would impose new strict requirements on Pennsylvania companies bidding on projects. We had suggested that a bill of this magnitude should at least receive a hearing for stakeholder input to be considered and for lawmakers to fully understand the impact of the new standards.

We are being told that these new standards would likely disqualify *a majority* of Pennsylvania contractors from Commonwealth construction work. Many of these are Pennsylvania employers with decades-long, stellar records of delivering projects safely, on time, and on budget, who very likely would be forced to close if this legislation became law.

Severely limiting the population of companies eligible for Commonwealth construction work would also significantly impact construction costs, which will ultimately be borne by taxpayers.

This bill benefits a handful of companies at the expense of many others and Pennsylvania taxpayers. Accordingly, we urge you to oppose H.B. 1449. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with any questions or to discuss.