



## WISCONSIN CONTRACTOR COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 13, 2015

CONTACT: Steve Lyons  
(608) 258-7131

### **Statewide business group releases study on prevailing wage from nationally renowned expert**

**[Click Here to Read the Study](#)**

#### ***Findings demonstrate how repeal would hurt productivity, safety and wages while Wisconsin faces a workforce crisis***

(Madison) – The Wisconsin Contractor Coalition, a Wisconsin-based group of over 450 private businesses from across the state, released a study that highlights the negative impact a repeal on Wisconsin's current prevailing wage law would have on our economy.

Dr. Peter Philips, nationally renowned expert on prevailing wage, released the study that addresses the negative impact repeal of Wisconsin's current prevailing wage law would have on issues such as; worker productivity, safety, and wages.

A few key points in the report, include;

- ✓ On average Wisconsin's public works productivity advantage ranges from 25% - 75% higher than the 18 states that do not have prevailing wage regulations.
- ✓ There is little evidence that support the assertion that repealing wage regulations saves any money. The report also looks at the comparison of school construction costs in Ohio and Kentucky. A 2013 peer-reviewed study from Bowling Green University confirmed that no measureable savings in school construction costs came from exempting Ohio schools from prevailing wage requirements.
- ✓ States with prevailing wage laws (on average) have a value-added per construction worker that is 14% higher than in states without prevailing wages regulations.
- ✓ Prevailing wage repeal affects training. When Kansas repealed its prevailing wage in 1987, apprenticeship training fell by 38%. After Colorado repealed its prevailing wage law in 1985, apprenticeship training fell by 42%.

Steve Lyons, Spokesperson for the WCC stated, “This report states what Wisconsin’s Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) also found to be true. That there simply is no savings if Wisconsin were to repeal our prevailing wage law.” (The LFB stated that any savings were indeterminate).

“Wisconsin has a workforce crisis. Today, Wisconsin needs to fill 70,000 jobs, many of them in skilled labor. In states that removed prevailing wages, those states experienced cuts in training, apprenticeships, and in worker wages. It simply sends the wrong message for those who are considering a career in these fields,” Lyons concluded.

WCC continues to be a leading bipartisan advocate of legislative, regulatory and public policies affecting the construction industry in the upcoming legislative session.

The full report can be found at [wisconsincontractorcoalition.com](http://wisconsincontractorcoalition.com)

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo can also be found at [wisconsincontractorcoalition.com](http://wisconsincontractorcoalition.com)