

Talking Points - Seattle Building & Construction Trades Council

Port of Seattle Commission – Consideration of Project Labor Agreement “Policy Directive”

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

12:00 pm – *PLA is far down published agenda*

POS Commission Chambers, Pier 69, 2711 Alaskan Way, Seattle

- Good afternoon. Today you are focused on policy direction that will help sustain and grow a ***partnership that is creating economic opportunity for thousands of working people***, including disadvantaged workers, women and veterans from throughout the region.
- On behalf of over 20,000 construction workers and their families across the region and the 19 affiliate unions in the Seattle-King County Building Trades, we want to ***thank the Commission and the Port administrative team*** for your leadership on productive Port partnerships with Labor.
- The Building Trades are working with partners across the region through Community Workforce Agreements, Priority Hire and other similar partnerships. We are helping build great communities by building better with the highest quality craftspeople, by being inclusive, by being innovative and by working in productive partnerships.
- With this incredible economic boom the Seattle region is continuing to experience, we hear a lot about the historic records being broken on jobs and the number of construction cranes in the sky. But what we don't hear enough about is the human upside: beneath all of the hardhats are real, mostly local people who are working hard day in and day out for this amazing economic development.
- And these are the kind of jobs that bring strength and diversity to our regional economy.
- The construction workers on the Port of Seattle projects are some of the safest, most highly trained, and productive skilled craft workers found anywhere in the world.
- Through our partnerships with the Port, we are also bringing new entrants into the construction field, through apprenticeships and training that will help bring more inclusion of women, people of color, veterans and others who are disadvantaged into construction. Through our strong training programs and projects such as this one, the Building Trades are building the next generation of construction workers from our local communities. This is a true ***pathway out of poverty***.
- In addition to their workforce development value, Project Labor Agreements are also ***tools for efficiency, predictability and certainty on construction projects***.

- In one Cornell University [study, the researchers reviewed 185 Project Labor Agreements](#) nationwide. The study concluded that PLAs “***provide value for government and corporate purchasers of construction services*** – getting the best work for the money with far greater likelihood of on-time, on-budget performance.”
- You may hear that PLAs undermine access for smaller firms. There is now a significant amount of data from the Port, as well as the City of Seattle, King County and the State – and programs across the country – that demonstrate that these agreements are ***not*** hindering access for women and minority-owned firms, they are actually ***facilitating access and inclusion.***
- And we are working with our partners and our own affiliates to ***increase access and opportunity*** through increased outreach and technical support.
- We believe strongly that ***job sites should reflect the community.*** Through our strong training programs and partnerships, the Building Trades are building the next generation of construction workers from our local communities.
- ***We are proud of our partnership with the Port of Seattle, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen it.***
- We look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Great job Stephanie Bowman

