



As our businesses and taxpayers bear an ever-increasing tax burden, we applaud your efforts to make state government live within its means. Families and employers are making difficult spending decisions, and government must do the same.

As you work to balance the state budget, we urge you to adopt some common-sense reforms that are immediately available to obtain more value from taxpayer dollars already being spent.

These reforms include:

1. Sun setting or eliminating “prevailing wages” from school construction, road and highway work, and all other taxpayer-funded programs;
2. Giving each municipality the option to pay the “prevailing wage” or the occupational “market based” wage for their area;
3. Updating the “prevailing wage” threshold (which has not been raised since 1961) to an amount equivalent to today’s dollars; and
4. Establishing the use of the occupational wage rate gathered by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry as the clear and uniform statutory definition of the prevailing pay rate.

Contrary to the rhetoric of organized labor, no one advocates eliminating family-sustaining wages or diminishing the dignity of employees. Instead, county occupational wage rates (which are already used for workers compensation and unemployment purposes) are NOT minimum or greatly reduced rates. The market-based occupational wage sets a floor rather than a ceiling, a floor very far above the mythically low levels depicted by union partisans.

These cost-saving measures are needed now more than ever, and we strongly urge you to adopt them. We are glad to meet with you at any time to discuss these issues further. On behalf of our organizations' tens of thousands of members, we respectfully request a response to this appeal.

Sincerely,