

Labor Today

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Prevailing Wage is a Mass Worker Issue. Let's Fight for It!

For too many years, the concept of a prevailing wage for a geographic area was seen as just a Building Trades issue. It isn't!

The Davis Bacon act was established over 85 years ago in 1931; and it still stands. See the wording:

Sec. 3143. Termination of work on failure to pay agreed wages:

"Every contract within the scope of this subchapter shall contain a provision that if the contracting officer finds that any laborer or mechanic employed by the contractor or any subcontractor directly on the site of the work covered by the contract has been or is being paid a rate of wages less than the rate of wages required by the contract to be paid, the Federal Government by written notice to the contractor may terminate the contractor's right to proceed with the work or the part of the work as to which there has been a failure to pay the required wages. The Government may have the work completed, by contract or otherwise, and the contractor and the contractor's sureties shall be liable to the Government for any excess costs the Government incurs."

This was enacted in the middle of the Depression. This was and remains one of the few Wage Solidarity facts of life in our Federal Government. It is first on the agenda of all Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers and all other corporate-anti-labor think tank organizations: ELIMINATE DAVIS BACON AND THE PREVAILING WAGE!

ENTER DEVELOPER TRUMP

The cost of building hotels and other entertainment venues would be considerably less and the profits of the developers significantly more, if the developers could pay what they wanted to the building trades as they do to their employees that don't have trade union representation.

But, even with a strong trade union, the elimination of DB would significantly burden the trades-AND THEY KNOW IT! DB wages lift all wages in the area. Workers talk to each other. As do unions.

That is why they fight tooth and nail for Davis-Bacon and the Prevailing Wage.

Too many of these building trades leaders mistakenly believe that since they negotiated with the current president Trump in the past that he will be sympathetic to their demands NOW. All signs point to the folly of this false reasoning.

Too often in the past politicians have exacted from building trade leaders terrible right wing policies; even pro-war support in exchange for keeping DB.

Developer President Trump will sure create some kind of international crisis to get the trades on his side and then kill DB. There is no question that was part of his reasoning when he invited some Building Trades leaders to the white house recently. And no doubt, the trades' leaders who went there had only one thought: Keeping Davis Bacon.

ONLY MASS SUPPORT FOR Davis-Bacon WILL WIN THIS TIME Deals with Trump and the new anti-labor Secretary won't work. They are a dead end.

DB has to be expanded, including more workers, so that more workers will join the lines of demonstrations that will surely surround the Congress and White House. Just seeing the "normal" trades workers there will be used against them by the opportunistic Trump policy makers. *If only white building trades show up, the opportunistic Trump will play unions and workers against each other. His General, Steve Bannon is an expert race baiter But Trades workers have more in common with service, industrial and public workers than they do with the Jingoistic / racist leaders in the White House and Congress.*

And, other unions and workers need to visit their local Building Trades offices in their communities: laborers, roofers, carpenters, electricians, operating engineers, etc. to offer their help in preserving Davis-Bacon. *Let's begin to unite all of labor around this issue now!*