

Defending Free Enterprise and the Merit Shop



Pennsylvania



We believe that free enterprise is fundamental to our Nation's success.

"Merit Shop" means that contractors and employees should be selected and rewarded based upon their performance, regardless of their union affiliation.

ABC of Pennsylvania Legislative Office

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Legislative Issues Overview

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Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

The Voice of the Merit Shop

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national construction industry trade association representing nearly 21,000 members. Founded on the *merit shop philosophy*, ABC and its 70 chapters help members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically, profitably and for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. ABC's membership represents all specialties within the U.S. construction industry and is comprised primarily of firms that perform work in the institutional, industrial and commercial sectors.

To learn more about ABC's history, goals and accomplishments, visit abc.org.

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Government-Mandated Project Labor Agreements

OVERVIEW

Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are clauses inserted into construction contracts that force bidders to use mandated labor pools, often from faraway union halls, instead of their own employees. These forced relationships are not only discriminatory to open shop companies, but frequently force a project to exceed its budget and schedule, and exclude local labor.

Most recently, Shell announced that a PLA was secured for the construction of the anticipated \$6 billion ethane cracker plant, meaning that, despite the heavy utilization of public funds on this project, nearly 90% of the western Pennsylvania construction workforce will be prohibited from working on this project.

ABC SUPPORTS

- House Co-Sponsor Memo 1418, circulated by Rep. Stephen Bloom (R-Cumberland), which would bar the use of project labor agreements (PLAs) on taxpayer-funded projects.
- Any legislation that would prohibit the use of Project Labor Agreements or defund publicly-funded projects that insist on excluding non-union labor.

Paycheck Protection

OVERVIEW

Paycheck protection legislation would prohibit the use of publicly-funded mechanisms to automatically deduct funding for political purposes from public sector union employees. Public sector unions would be required to actively solicit members to contribute for political purposes, much the same as private entities must do. These bills would level the playing field for public sector unions and diminish the disproportionate union influence in Pennsylvania policy.

ABC SUPPORTS

- Senate Bill 166, introduced by Sen. John Eichelberger (R-Blair), prohibits the automatic collection of public employee union dues for political use.
- Senate Bill 167, introduced by Sen. Scott Wagner (R-York), amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to prohibit the automatic collection of public employee union dues for political use.
- House Bill 1174, introduced by Rep. Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster), prohibits the automatic collection of public employee union dues for political use.



Within Pennsylvania, ABC is comprised of five chapters that offer construction related skills training and advocate for free enterprise and the merit shop philosophy throughout the Commonwealth.

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