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## Prevailing wage argument

I have been against this since I started working in the construction industry back in 1974.

How does the government (otherwise known as the taxpayer) save 20-30% on its construction cost?

Simple, get rid of the prevailing wage rate laws that pertain to **all** government construction contracts (Due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the stimulus bill).

What are Prevailing wage rates? These were enacted so that it would make it a “fair playing field” for companies that want to compete on Government construction contracts. It is not fair at all!

The Davis-Bacon Act has explicitly **racist origins**. I was designed in 1925 to stop blacks from competing on Government jobs.

Try something like that in today’s world!

Previous to this all government contracts were bid to the lowest qualified bidder.

The problem is that it is not an equal playing field due to the way the rate structure is developed within the prevailing wage rate schedules.

So even if the contactor is Non-union the taxpayer still pays as much as the unions.

Since the private union workforce is only 11% of the entire US workforce this does not distribute the wealth to the masses, especially the middle class.

Why does the taxpayer have to pay extra for all construction projects to help the unions? Because they have money from union dues to lobby the government and make large donations to candidates.

With the current employment laws (minimum wage laws, OSHA) this is not needed anymore. Companies are now looking for good people to work for them and it is competitive.

The Unions are outdated with all there extra fees and cost. Just look at the US car companies and the state unionized workers. I would have to say that bad management and government regulations have played an equal if not larger problem than the unions but it is still a large problem.

As a taxpayer I am more concerned with our deficits and cost to our states with most now in deficits by a large margin.

Our president wants to create the largest Public works project since Hoover and Eisenhower. The problem is it will only go to the unions except for the materials side. Is this going to make it to the general public? No it will not. If our president wants to help 95% of the workers then show it to us by eliminating the prevailing wage law.

<http://reason.com/archives/2010/03/24/repeal-the-davis-bacon-act>

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2009/01/extension-of-the-davis-bacon-act-the-heritage-foundation-2009-labor-boot-camp>