

Tri-City Building & Construction Trades Council



Asbestos/Insulators No. 81
Boilermakers No. 60
Boilermakers No. 83
Bricklayers No. 6
Carpenters No. 4
Carpenters No. 166
Cement Masons No. 18
Elevator Construction No. 33
Glaziers No. 581
IBEW No. 34
IBEW No. 145
Ironworkers No. 111

Phone: 309-786-1115

Fax: 309-786-7292

4602 Forty-sixth Avenue
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61201
February 22, 2019

Millwrights No. 2158
Operating Engineers No. 150
Operating Engineers No. 649
Painters No. 502
Painters No. 676
Plasterers No. 18
Plumbers & Pipefitters No. 25
Roofers No. 32
Sheet Metal Workers No. 91
Sprinkler Fitters No. 669
Teamster No. 371

Mayor Frank Klipsch, Chairman &
Board Members of the
Bi-State Regional Commission Transportation Policy Committee
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

Dear Chairman Klipsch & Members of the Transportation Policy Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the 7,000 members of the Tri-City Building and Construction Trades Council to request the Bi-State Transportation Policy Committee opt out of participating in the Iowa Road Swap Program.

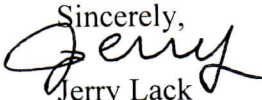
As you are aware, in 2017 the State of Iowa approved legislation authorizing the Iowa Department of Transportation to allow Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to exchange or swap Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funds for Iowa Primary Road Funds. In 2018 the Iowa Transportation Commission adopted a policy for the Road Fund Swap Program.

The Road Swap Program policies adopted by Iowa exclude the payment of federal prevailing wages and the Buy American Act, which will not require contractors to purchase American made steel when building bridges and other structures.

The federal prevailing wage ensures that construction jobs funded by taxpayers pay a decent and fair wage. The Iowa Road Swap Program is simply a money scheme that trades federal dollars for state dollars to avoid paying construction workers a decent wage.

When skilled trade members and local contractors are paid the prevailing wage you see the results throughout your communities. Main Streets, stores, and restaurants prosper when families make a living wage. They purchase homes, autos, furniture and entertainment. If construction workers and contractors have less money in their pockets they will not be spending it in your communities and at area businesses.

By opting out of the Iowa Road Swap Program you will ensure that workers and contractors receive the prevailing wage on federal road improvement projects and you will ensure that American steel is used during construction. I urge the Bi-State Transportation Policy Committee vote to opt out of the Road Swap Program.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lack
Executive Director

UNION YES 