

## **Draft Form Letter to State Legislator – Re: Prevailing Wage**

Dear [Senator/Assemblyman]

I am writing to ask you to oppose legislation pending in the New York State Legislature that will have a direct negative impact on my business.

This year the Legislature is poised to pass two “Prevailing Wage” bills that would increase the cost of electric and gas service in New York State.

The first, A.6970 by Assembly Labor Committee Chairman Keith Wright and S.3827 by Senate Energy Committee Chairman George Maziarz, seeks to dictate what type of workers electric and gas utilities can use for street excavations. It also provides that utilities or their contractors pay non-competitive wages and post unreasonable payment bonds on projects where a permit to open or use a street is required. It is estimated that this legislation will add \$6.9 million annually to electric and gas customers’ bills.

The second “Prevailing Wage” bill, A.9375 by Assemblymember Karim Camara and S.7434 by Senator Diane Savino, would require gas and electric utilities to pay non-competitive wages to all sub-contracted office cleaners and security personnel. It is estimated that this legislation will add more than \$14 million annually to electric and gas customers’ bills.

Both proposals would result in higher energy prices by eliminating utilities’ ability to use reasonable cost savings techniques like hiring the lowest and most responsible bidder for certain types of work.

The Legislature must help alleviate the economic burden on small businesses, not impose additional costly mandates that make it harder to grow and create jobs. Please help save jobs by helping small businesses stay in business. Now is *not* the time to pass A.6970 / S.3827 and A.9375/S.7434.

Sincerely,

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