



***SOUTHWEST IDAHO SOUTHEAST OREGON
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
AFL-CIO***

October 15, 2015

I am Marty Durand and I am legislative counsel for the Idaho Building Trades. I represent the skilled trades in the construction industry.

I'm here to comment on public works contracts. Contracting is a big world, and this is just a piece of the puzzle, but one that deserves attention.

Idaho's current public works contracting laws could be improved. Reliance on the lowest bidder to deliver quality construction is not ideal. Idaho has an opportunity to revise its bidding laws and ensure not only quality construction, but taxpayer savings and greater benefits to all Idahoans.

Public works are an opportunity to not just build structures, but to build communities. Idaho can promote its own contractors and workers. Idaho can develop its own workforce. Idaho can deliver greater value to its taxpayers.

Idaho has the opportunity to look beyond the lowest bidder, and consider who delivers the best value. The best value to taxpayers and to communities.

This is not an exhaustive list, but just some things to consider when looking at best value in public works contracts. Does the contractor:

1. Offer a qualified health insurance plan to the contractor's and subcontractor's employees and the employee's dependents? Workers with health insurance are less likely to rely on government programs or the indigency fund.
2. Have a qualified job training (apprentice) program? Idaho can invest in its people, and develop its own talent. Idaho needs good workforce development, and apprentice programs deliver. They train tomorrow's workforce. And, construction jobs are good paying jobs.
3. Have a written safety program? Idaho can promote workplace safety and protect workers from injury or accident. This could reduce workers comp costs.
4. Pay wages that allow workers to provide for their families and contribute to their communities? Less reliance on public assistance and greater tax revenues benefit both workers and taxpayers.

Best value contracting includes hiring preference for Idaho resident workers pursuant to Idaho Code 44-1001 and Idaho domiciled contractors pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2348.

The contractor's past performance should also be considered, including:

1. Safety record;
2. Bankruptcies and liens;
3. Prior cost over runs;
4. On time completion of projects;
5. Prior project abandonment.

Including the above elements into Idaho's current public works construction laws would add value to public works projects and benefit Idaho workers and taxpayers.

Marty Durand
Legislative Counsel
208 331-9200
marty@idunionlaw.com