



CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Representative Katrina Shankland, Rep. Christine Sinicki and Senator Dianne Hesselbein

DATE: Thursday, September 7, 2023

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-3228/1 and LRB-3666/1 relating to: project labor agreements and public contracts.

DEADLINE: Friday, September 22, 2023

*We are introducing the **Workers First** package to ensure every worker has access to fair wages, good benefits, workplace protections, and a high quality of life. For too long, the Legislature has ignored the needs of working people, from rolling back workers' rights to undermining local control and diminishing the economic well-being of the men and women who work hard for a living. As our state continues to experience a worker shortage, it is past time to put Wisconsin workers first.*

This legislation restores Project Labor Agreements, a valuable and voluntary option for local and state governments, which were prohibited by 2017 Act 3.

Prior to this law, Project Labor Agreements, or PLAs, were most often used on large and complex construction projects that required the use of multiple contractors. The goal of PLAs is to provide one standard for terms of employment among all contractors to ensure the project completion is on time and on budget. PLAs also help in ensuring quality work and appropriate compensation by creating a level playing field, a consistent and competitive bidding process, and securing the most skilled and sophisticated workers available in their fields.

One shining example of a Project Labor Agreement in Wisconsin is the [Fiserv Forum](#), which surpassed its local hiring and inclusion goals. This bill restores Project Labor Agreements as an option for local and state governments in Wisconsin and puts Wisconsin workers first.

To co-sponsor this legislation, please reply to this email or call Rep. Shankland's office at 9171 or Sen. Hesselbein's office at 6-6670 by Friday, September 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM All co-sponsors will be added to both the Assembly and Senate versions of the bill unless specified otherwise.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the state and local units of government are prohibited from engaging in certain practices in letting bids for state procurement or public works contracts. Among these prohibitions, as established by 2017 Wisconsin Act 3, the state and local governments may not do any of the following in specifications for bids for the contracts: 1) require that a bidder enter into an agreement with a labor organization; 2) consider, when awarding a contract, whether a bidder has or has not entered into an agreement with a labor organization; or 3) require that a bidder enter into an agreement that requires that the bidder or bidder's employees become or remain members of a labor organization or pay any dues or fees to a labor organization. This bill repeals these bidding specification restrictions.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.