

## **The Trump Administration Should Not Continue a Failed Biden-Era Labor Mandate**

On June 12, the Trump administration said it will continue to enforce former President Joe Biden's discriminatory, anti-competitive policy mandating project labor agreements on federal construction projects of \$35 million or more.

This decision cannot be reconciled with the president's philosophies of merit, fairness and nondiscrimination because it inhibits fair and open competition and prioritizes special interests over taxpayers and workers. It also doubles down on an unfair, wasteful, policy that inflates costs and delays critical construction projects, including those important to the defense of our country.

By effectively excluding 89.7% of Pennsylvania construction workforce [EW1] that does not belong to a union from nearly all large-scale federal construction contracts, it creates ongoing confusion and legal uncertainty, which will result in unnecessary delays and cost increases to critical national security projects needed to protect our border and rebuild our military.

The administration tacitly agrees that PLA mandates make construction more expensive, specifying that a contract that costs 10% more because of fewer competitive bids with a PLA is okay. The result is that taxpayers will get nine miles of highway instead of 10 with a PLA mandate that limits the number of bidders.

Make no mistake, this decision directly contradicts the president's agenda, which until now focused on promoting merit and cutting waste for the benefit of American taxpayers. The administration should do the right thing and rescind the illegal, anti-competitive Biden mandate and replace it with a policy that promotes fair and open competition.

Fair and open competition works because it not only preserves worker choice but also gives contractors the freedom to choose whether to enter into a PLA. Ultimately, it is about merit and nondiscrimination.

Every qualified contractor should have the opportunity to build America. The Trump administration should rescind this PLA mandate executive order immediately.

Justin Erdner  
President  
Associated Builders & Contractors, Western PA