



Western
Pennsylvania
Chapter

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABC Points Out Additional Projects Where Onorato was “probably wrong”

Pittsburgh, PA – Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Western Pennsylvania are challenging Chief Executive Dan Onorato on more than just the CCAC project and ABC is demanding answers on past practices. In a recent press conference, Chief Executive Dan Onorato stated, “to put a specific percentage on it [project labor agreements] was probably wrong, and that's why they were pulled back.” Onorato has switched gears since ABC challenged Allegheny County to stop the usage of PLAs on publicly funded projects. Onorato then placed blame on the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) by saying they probably looked at “old language” when writing the bidding proposal. The “old language” used in past practices called for Stabilization Agreements, which did not contain PLAs, contrary to the Chief Executive’s words.

“It’s interesting how the Chief Executive is now against PLAs since receiving pressure from voters,” said Eileen Watt, President of ABC. “Dan Onorato has a history of using unfair bidding practices, cutting out 85% of the construction work-force, and favoring special interests on construction projects. If Onorato is willing to cut out competition, which drives up project costs in Allegheny county, he will do the same for the Commonwealth as Governor,” continued Watt. Allegheny County currently has a \$30 million dollar deficit, for which the Chief Executive manages. At a time when the County is seeing a deficit in revenue streams like Three Rivers Casino, additional costs from project labor agreements are wasteful towards taxpayer money.

A sampling of projects which have cut out small businesses by using a PLA include: Kane Hospital last year, Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) two months ago, and Hartwood Acres a few weeks ago – all under Onorato’s leadership. ABC calls on Onorato to admit all projects were “probably wrong” and stop PLAs on all future construction projects.

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Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania is part of a national association representing more than 25,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms in 77 chapters across the United States. For more information, visit ABC of Western PA's Web site, www.abcwpa.org. For communications inquiries, please contact Loren Cribbs at lcribbs@abcwpa.org.