



Western
Pennsylvania
Chapter

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2010

PENN HILLS PLAYS FAVORITES AT THE EXPENSE OF STUDENTS

Pittsburgh, PA – At a special meeting last night, the Penn Hills School Board members voted 8-1 in favor of placing a project labor agreement (PLA) on their upcoming \$130 million construction project, which goes to bid in a few weeks. The only member to vote against using a PLA and protecting taxpayer money and student education was Margie Krogh. The Board voted without having the final version of the agreement present, neglecting any source of fact-finding. This follows Chief Executive Dan Onorato’s statement earlier in the month that it was “probably wrong” to place PLAs on school projects.

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Western Pennsylvania expressed their grave concern over the Board’s decision to place a PLA on this project, and also for abandoning the information process. “This is what we’re fighting for – ensuring everyone is included in the process, which means minority and woman-owned small businesses,” said Eileen Watt, President of ABC. “Penn Hills has made it clear they want to push special interests behind closed doors, and this could result in a potential lawsuit if not rectified,” continued Watt. ABC confirmed they did not know about a PLA being discussed within Penn Hills School District.

“We have to trust school districts to use due diligence before signing agreements,” said Bob Glancy, Chairman of ABC and President of R.A. Glancy & Sons. “It’s unfortunate that Penn Hills is not serving their students and taxpaying citizens as positively as other districts, for example, McKeesport,” continued Glancy. Glancy is referring to a decision in July where the McKeesport Area School District rejected a PLA, 7-2, saving the taxpayers money and offering many opportunities to their diverse group of students, many of whom enter the construction industry and participate in ABC’s school-to-work program.

###

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.