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**ABC FORCES STATE TO DROP PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT**

Columbus, OH – The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC), following intense pressure from ABC, dropped the project labor agreement (PLA) on the Ohio School for the Deaf and School for the Blind (OSDB) dormitory construction package.  Bid packages will be issued in the next week and bids will be opened four weeks later.  The academic buildings construction phase will be postponed until the cost savings from the dormitory construction can be evaluated.

In April OSFC Director Richard Murray announced he would impose a PLA for the $28 million project which included academic buildings and residential dormitories. That decision touched off a firestorm of opposition from ABC of Ohio.

Director Murray claimed bidding would be brisk and the PLA would not adversely affect the cost of the project. He was wrong on both accounts. After two bid extensions to drum up more bidders, the few bids received were 41% over budget (or $11 million).

The state hired construction manager interviewed the many companies who purchased plans with the intent to bid but did not. Their response was loud and clear. The last minute addition of the PLA kept them from bidding.

This is a major victory for all ABC members, Ohio taxpayers and the students served by the Ohio School for the Deaf and School for the Blind. This is a victory for free enterprise.

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