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JOHN A. FRITCHEY
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MEMBER
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Transportation &
Motor Vehicles

Joint Committee on
Administrative Rules

August 4, 2008

Dear Elected Official,

I am writing to you to voice my support for the use of a Responsible Bidder Ordinance for all public works construction projects in your community.

While public contracts are usually awarded to the lowest 'responsible' bid pursuant to state law, a question often exists as to what 'responsible' means, and often times, it is misinterpreted to mean 'financially responsible'. Many times, attempts to be the lowest bidder leads to bidders removing benefits for workers, which in turn, leaves workers to require more public services, ultimately increasing taxpayer burden.

As I trust you are aware, Responsible Bidder Ordinances help to ensure the well-being of our local economies by ensuring the safety and health of the workers in them. Not only do Responsible Bidder Ordinances require trained workers but they protect our health and safety by requiring contractors to have benefit plans and applicable apprenticeship programs. This not only offers the area better trained workers but it lowers the risk of liability for the taxpayers.

I urge you to adopt a Responsible Bidder Ordinance and reap the numerous short- and long-term benefits that it produces for taxpayers and their communities alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Fritchey".

Hon. John Fritchey

JAF/lpk