



P.O. Box 370 | Kingston, MA | 02364
781.585.5894
www.mca-ma.com

May 14, 2010

VIA FACSIMILE AND EMAIL

617-248-0372; canders@tre.state.ma.us

The Honorable Timothy Cahill
Treasurer and Receiver General
State House, Room 227
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Treasurer Cahill:

On April 12, 2010, I wrote to ask whether you support the imposition of Project Labor Agreements on taxpayer-funded projects. Specifically in my April 12 letter I asked, "If elected governor, would your administration ever seek to use PLAs or would you sign legislation containing a PLA?"

My organization has long held that PLAs are terrible public policy because they significantly limit competition from qualified bidders which increases project costs by at least 20 percent, further draining already overburdened taxpayers.

PLAs are also discriminatory. Because they require the use of union-only labor, the onerous policy locks out the vast majority of the state's construction workforce (80 percent according to federal labor statistics). The result is taxpayers denied an opportunity to work on projects they are funding. This is nothing short of employment discrimination and is intolerable at any level.

The March 31, 2010 Boston Globe contained a column by Scot Lehigh, entitled, "Courting trade unions," and in that column, Mr. Lehigh reported the stances of the gubernatorial candidates with regard to Project Labor Agreements. However, Mr. Lehigh wrote, "Independent candidate Tim Cahill's campaign couldn't provide his position by deadline."

To date, I have not received the courtesy of a response from you, any member of your staff or your campaign and therefore must conclude that you favor the imposition of PLAs. I reach this conclusion reluctantly but am left no choice when after two months and several inquiries, you have still refused to take a position on the matter.

By supporting PLAs, you are signaling to Massachusetts voters that you are willing to discriminate against anyone who makes the personal decision to not carry a union membership card - all in order to curry favor with special interests – proving once again that Beacon Hill politics and special interests trump the interests of hard working taxpayers.

If I have reached this conclusion in error, please help set the record straight with an immediate reply. Until then, the open shop community and Massachusetts voters have every right to be concerned and deeply disappointed in your lack of response to this very important public policy issue.

Sincerely,

Ronald N. Cogliano
President