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LLOYD SMUCKER
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Senate of Pennsylvania

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June 25, 2009

The Honorable Edward Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

The decision to require a Project Labor Agreement for the Rockview Prison project in Centre County is causing a great deal of consternation within the construction industry and in the community at large.

At a time when Pennsylvania is looking to spread work around and accomplish projects at a lower cost to taxpayers, the PLA approach is counterproductive to those goals.

From the perspective of a number of groups and individuals who followed this process closely, it looks as though the state devoted a lot of time and resources to arrive at a pre-ordained outcome.

Centre County does not appear to be an area where a PLA is needed or likely to produce savings for taxpayers. The more comprehensive study conducted of the labor market did not demonstrate a need. To make this decision based on the rather superficial review by a labor-funded think tank is hardly defensible.

There is another element of unfairness here. A number of businesses who spent money in anticipation of being able to bid on work for this project are now effectively precluded from any hope of participating.

Before my election to the state Senate, I owned a construction company for twenty-five years. Based on that experience, much of what is being said about this project does not reflect the reality or the track record of the industry. There is nothing to support the recently-stated contention that only a PLA can ensure a project is brought home on time and on budget.

Pennsylvania would be best served if every company with an interest, union and non-union alike, has a realistic chance to bid and receive a contract for this project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lloyd K. Smucker', written over a horizontal line.

Lloyd K. Smucker, State Senator
Lancaster and York Counties