



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Loudon
7th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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Contact: Mark Meuser
(573) 751-9763

Missouri Senate Gives Final Approval to Senator John Loudon's Open Contracting Act

JEFFERSON CITY— A measure sponsored by State Sen. John Loudon, R-Ballwin, that prevents cities, counties and the state from imposing “project labor agreement” (PLA) requirements in carrying out public works projects received final passage today in the Missouri Senate.

Senate Bill 185 lifts the requirement that public works projects must be completed by union laborers and opens the contracting up to any qualified company.

“PLAs thwart open competition by inhibiting non-union contractors from bidding on civic projects and causing the price of public projects to soar,” Loudon said. “This legislation evens out the playing field for union and non-union contractors and saves taxpayers money.”

Loudon recognizes the important role labor unions played in improving working conditions in the past, but feels that today, the organized labor unions make for an unfriendly business environment.

“If a private company is equally qualified to handle the public works project, they should be equally able to bid,” Loudon said. “The bid that offers the highest quality of work for the least amount of money is the best deal—for the city, for the project, for the taxpayers.”

The bill is now being reviewed in the House. Approval will send the bill to the governor's desk, where it is expected to be signed into law.

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