

# **NECA Contractor Call to Action - Act Now on SB 785 (Wolk)**

NECA supported legislation, SB 785 (Wolk), needs your help to ensure this critical new law is passed. The bill would consolidate and standardize the authorizing statutes for public works design-build construction. In an effort to push that work towards union contractors we were able to secure a “skilled and trained workforce” requirement in the measure that reads as follows:

*(c) A design-build entity shall not be prequalified or shortlisted unless the entity provides an enforceable commitment to the local agency that the entity and its subcontractors at every tier will use a skilled and trained workforce to perform all work on the project or contract that falls within an apprentice able occupation in the building and construction trades.*

*(1) For purposes of this subdivision:*

*(A) “Apprentice able occupation” means an occupation for which the chief had approved an apprenticeship program pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code prior to January 1, 2014.*

*(B) “Skilled and trained workforce” means a workforce that meets all of the following conditions:*

*(i) All the workers are either skilled journeypersons or apprentices registered in an apprenticeship program approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards.*

*(ii) (I) As of January 1, 2016, at least 20 percent of the skilled journey persons employed to perform work on the contract or project by the entity and each of its subcontractors at every tier are graduates of an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that was either approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code or located outside California and approved for federal purposes pursuant to the apprenticeship regulations adopted by the federal Secretary of Labor.*

*(II) As of January 1, 2017, at least 30 percent of the skilled journey persons employed to perform work on the contract or project by the entity and each of its subcontractors at every tier are graduates of an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that was either approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code or located outside California and approved for federal purposes pursuant to the apprenticeship regulations adopted by the federal Secretary of Labor.*

*(III) As of January 1, 2018, at least 40 percent of the skilled journey persons employed to perform work on the contract or project by the entity and each of its subcontractors at every tier are graduates of an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that was either approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code or located outside California and approved for federal purposes pursuant to the apprenticeship regulations adopted by the federal Secretary of Labor.*

*(IV) As of January 1, 2019, at least 50 percent of the skilled journey persons employed to perform work on the contract or project by the entity and each of its subcontractors at every tier are graduates of an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that was either approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code or located outside California and approved for federal purposes pursuant to the apprenticeship regulations adopted by the federal Secretary of Labor.*

*(V) As of January 1, 2020, at least 60 percent of the skilled journey persons employed to perform work on the contract or project by the entity and each of its subcontractors at every tier are graduates of an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation that was either approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code or located outside California and approved for federal purposes pursuant to the apprenticeship regulations adopted by the federal Secretary of Labor.*

**Please mail or fax letters of support on your letterhead as soon as possible.**

**Sample letter on next page for your use.**

*Below is the contact information for Governor Brown and Senator Wolk:*

Governor Edmund “Jerry” G. Brown, Jr.  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: (916) 558-3160

The Honorable Lois Wolk  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: (916) 651-4903

**DATE**

The Honorable Lois Wolk  
California State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 785 (Wolk) – DESIGN-BUILD- SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Wolk:

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Firm Name Here** \_\_\_\_\_, I am pleased to make you aware of our support for your SB 785.

This measure will provide uniformity throughout the design-build statutes. Uniform design build statutes would provide contractors and public officials with a consistent business environment within which to operate throughout the state. In addition, this bill ensures that a high level of competency will be required of the workers who actually build these design-build projects, which in turn, will result in the public agency and taxpayers receiving the highest quality of construction on these projects.

Our firm employees \_\_\_?\_\_\_ individuals and performs electrical work in both rural and urban areas. The requirement to provide a “skilled and trained workforce” on public works design-build projects will not diminish our ability to perform this type of work. We strongly believe that the skilled and trained workforce requirement will lead to safer worksites that result in superiorly constructed projects.

For these reasons, we are in support of this important measure and the skilled and trained workforce requirement.

Sincerely,  
**Your name**  
**Title**

**cc:** Governor Edmund “Jerry” G. Brown, Jr.