

BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

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Un-American: Hard-working citizens banished

I am a resident and a contractor who competes for business in Bucks County and I am being barred from working in certain townships that are located in the county where I live and pay taxes. Officials in Falls, Lower Makefield and Middletown townships have already voted to discriminate against companies like mine, and officials in Warrington Township are considering it as well.

The so-called "Responsible Contractor Ordinance" that has already been passed in the three townships ensures that only union contractors and union members are able to work on public construction projects in these townships. Open-shop contractors, like myself, that have been performing high quality work on public projects for years in Bucks County and the surrounding area are being excluded. That's not just unfair, it's wrong.

Under this ordinance, only union apprenticeship training programs satisfy the training requirements for public construction projects in these townships. This eliminates more than 75 percent of the construction employees in the greater Philadelphia region that work for merit (open-shop) contractors. Organizations like Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) provide state and federally approved training programs that are equal, if not better, than those offered by the unions.

I believe that regulations that ensure the competency of contractors are good, but the unions' "Responsible Contractor Ordinance" is exactly that — the unions'. It is unfair and discriminates against a large group of contractors in the area. Please support your fellow taxpayers and contact the supervisors in these townships and let them know how un-American they are being in voting to adopt this ordinance.

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Warrington