



## Ohio Construction Coalition

“News Blaster”

November 01, 2005

**To: All OCC Partners**

### **OCC Goes on Attack against OSFC, Citing Shortcomings in Contracting**

On October 27, OCC school construction investigator Al Adams went before the Ohio School Facilities Commission and gave testimony that the OSFC has been receiving required contractor evaluations but has purposely not been filing them. Al charged that the OSFC has been withholding the evaluations “in order to allow it to continue to operate under its failing legislative orders.”

While only 360 evaluations were on file in November 2004 despite the OSFC having let thousands of contracts, the OCC has proof that the OSFC has received evaluations but has not filed them. During his testimony, Al said this has prohibited schools from using them “to properly evaluate contractors for their construction work.” He went on to testify that as a result, “favored contractors can be hired to perform OSFC school work, many of which are not evaluated as being responsible.”

The OCC also has been in contact with reporters around the state and the Ohio Ethics Commission to investigate the connection between poor school construction work being performed under the OSFC and political donations to Gov. Bob Taft. Most all of the contractors used by the OSFC on the problem projects have been found to be top donors to Taft; in fact, nearly \$9 of every \$10 awarded to unbid construction-management contracts went to companies that gave to a political fund controlled by Taft.

### **OCC-Supported HB 307 Makes Drug Testing for Contractors Required**

Ohio House Bill 307, which is co-sponsored by Democratic Rep. Bill Hartnett and Republican Reps. Jimmy Stewart and Jim Trakas, among others, would require the state to only accept bids for construction over \$50,000 by a contractor that “has a drug-free workplace program in place that meets the standards established by the Director of Administrative Services.” The legislation currently is assigned to the Committee on Labor.

The bill was introduced in the House just after the OCC met with Rep. Stewart in June and submitted to him draft legislation for a bill that would require proof that drug testing programs are in place for all contractors that bid on state public school construction.

### **Anti-Prevailing Wage Bill Pulled After OCC Handout is Circulated**

Ohio House Bill 222 was reportedly tabled before it was to be discussed Oct. 4 on the House floor – shortly after the OCC sent to all legislators its research booklet on Prevailing Wage and the poor school construction work taking place in Ohio.

**The OCC asks that all those interested in the welfare of the state’s construction industry contact their local senators and representatives to make sure they have received and reviewed the booklet! For copies of the booklet and more information, contact Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group at [cjefferson@bmamedia.com](mailto:cjefferson@bmamedia.com) or 1-888-445-8255.**

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### **OCC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW!!**

The OCC needs your help to maintain its many projects! **TO BE AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER, CONTACT THE OCC IMMEDIATELY TO ASSIST AT 419-241-3601!!** And be sure to circulate this “News Blaster” to all of your associates and potential OCC members!

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To report SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS AND SUCCESSES in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group at [cjefferson@bmamedia.com](mailto:cjefferson@bmamedia.com) or 1-888-445-8255.