LiUNA! LOCAL 300

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Re: LIUNA Local 300 Opposition to AB 2986

Dear Assembly Member Juan Carillo and Assembly Member Marie Waldron,

My name is Sergio Rascón and I am the Business Manager of LIUNA Local 300. We are a construction Union of over 8,000 active and retired members headquartered in Los Angeles. The type of work our members perform includes but is not limited to the pouring, placing, and finishing of concrete, demolition, environmental abatement, asphalt raking, landscape construction and maintenance and we are the miners in the tunnels. Our members live primarily within and around the County of Los Angeles, with quite a few members residing in the unincorporated areas of East Los Angeles.

I write to you today to express our Local's concern with and opposition to AB 2986. It is our belief that turning East Los Angeles into its own City or special district would prove to be more harmful than beneficial to the members we represent and who live in East Los Angeles. As it currently stands, public services in these areas are already strained and much of the infrastructure in disrepair. At a time where state and local government are making critical budget decisions, our members living in these communities cannot afford any potential increases to their cost of living while fighting to stay in a community they are rooted in. Our retirees living in these communities are of special concern as they are living on a fixed income.

Furthermore, of greater concern to our members would be the impact AB 2986 would have on slated projects in these areas that would be covered by a Countywide Project Labor Agreement (PLA). We fought hard and worked closely with our County Supervisors, especially Supervisor Hilda Solis to get a Countywide PLA. The goal of the Countywide PLA is to cover as many LA County projects as possible and provide good paying Union jobs to our members living in these impacted areas.

These jobs will also open the doors for many residents living in these impacted communities to join Building Trade Unions like ours and give them a career that will help them remain in the only communities they have known. These careers will help them provide for their families, provide medical benefits for themselves, and their families, provide a pension and annuity. If our members work in the communities they live in, they contribute to the local economy and help bolster their community.

There is a great uncertainty about any future LA County projects that would fall under the Countywide PLA should East Los Angeles become its own city or special district. There is potential for public infrastructure in these areas to slide further into disrepair and for public services to become even more non-serving. Therefore, we have grave doubts and reservations about the practicality of AB 2986 and ask that you reconsider this bill with great care and concern for the members of Local 300 living in East Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Sergio Rascón
Business Manager
LIUNA Local 300

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