July 21, 2025

Spokane City Council
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Council Members,

As a locally owned and operated construction company, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed “Public Dollars for Public Benefit Act” (ORD C36723) and its requirement for a mandatory Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) on public works projects.

We are proud of the work we’ve done in Spokane - building public infrastructure, employing local residents, and creating pathways into construction careers. But as a non-union contractor, this ordinance would significantly limit our ability to compete for City projects and force us to choose between continuing to serve our community or protecting the workforce we’ve built over years.

This ordinance would have serious consequences for our company and our employees:

* **Displaces our current workforce**, requiring us to hire through a union hall - even if we already have qualified, long-time employees ready to do the work.
* **Reduces take-home pay for our workers**, who would have to pay into union benefit plans they may never qualify for due to short project durations.
* **Excludes our apprentices** from participating, even if they are enrolled in state-recognized, non-union programs.
* **Creates major barriers to subcontracting**, as many of our trusted local partners are unwilling or unable to sign onto a PLA - further limiting who we can work with and raising costs.
* **Adds layers of compliance and paperwork** that small businesses like ours are simply not resourced to manage, especially without additional staff or administrative support.

These issues aren’t theoretical - they would immediately change how we operate and make it unlikely that we could continue bidding on City work.

We are happy to work with the City to advance **practical, flexible strategies that support local hiring**. This could include hiring incentives, pre-apprenticeship partnerships, outreach efforts, or technical assistance for small businesses. We’re committed to those goals - but they should be accomplished in ways that promote participation, not limit it.

Thank you for your time and service. We remain ready to be a partner in building Spokane - responsibly, efficiently, and with a workforce that reflects our community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Title]
[Company Name]
[Contact Information]