July 21, 2025

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

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of [Company Name], a proud union contractor that has built much of Spokane’s infrastructure over the past [X] years, we’re writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed “Public Dollars for Public Benefit Act” (ORD C36723) and its mandate for Community Workforce Agreements (CWAs) on public works projects.

As a signatory contractor, we already meet or exceed workforce, apprenticeship, and inclusion goals through our collective bargaining agreements. This ordinance imposes a duplicative and unnecessary layer of regulation that does not improve outcomes but significantly complicates our ability to bid and deliver work efficiently.

For companies like ours, this ordinance would:

* Add costly administrative burdens and reporting requirements, diverting resources from workforce development into compliance.
* Limit flexibility in managing labor and workforce deployment across projects.
* Make it difficult or impossible to work with trusted subcontractors who are unwilling or unable to sign on to a PLA - many of whom are small, local businesses that have partnered with us for years.
* Further reduce the pool of available subcontractors, making it harder to meet project demands and increasing both time and cost.

We fully support local hire and increasing access to construction careers for underserved populations - but this ordinance does not get us there. In fact, it may reduce opportunities for everyone by increasing cost and complexity while decreasing competition.

We urge the City to focus on real, practical strategies that align with the shared goal of local hiring. Union contractors are already training and placing apprentices and workers from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We’re ready to partner with the City to strengthen and expand that work - without imposing a framework that duplicates existing commitments and adds barriers for proven partners.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We remain committed to helping Spokane grow - with a local workforce, strong training programs, and partnerships that make sense on the ground.

Sincerely,

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