

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION BILL

Gov. Christie Whitman today told the 95th annual convention of the New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council that she supports and will sign legislation requiring contractors bidding on public works projects to register each year with the Department of Labor. The bill has passed both houses of the Legislature.

"I am pleased to announce my support for a bill that will give state government another tool to enforce our labor laws. The registration will help the state fund enforcement of the law. What's more, the legislation will enable the Commissioner of Labor to sanction contractors by requiring a bond that would be payable should they fail to pay the wage and benefits that the law says their workers deserve," the Governor said.

"The sponsors of this legislation call their bill the Public Works Contractor Registration Act. I call it a matter of justice and fairness," she said. "And I am happy to say that I will sign the bill."

The sponsors of the legislation are John V. Kelly (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Joseph V. Doria, Jr. (D-Hudson).

Attached is a copy of the Governor's remarks.

