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FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3006

April 30, 2007

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Commissioner David J. Socolow  
NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
1 John Fitz Plaza, 13th Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Socolow,


I am writing to you today regarding several current and future redevelopment projects along the New Jersey shore. As you may know, many coastal towns particularly in Monmouth County are in the process of significant redevelopment projects in various stages of completion. While these projects often have a positive impact on the individual towns and the region, it is troubling to me that many of the construction jobs are paying well below prevailing wage.

It is my understanding that in at least two of the municipalities, Long Branch and Asbury Park, the redevelopment projects have received benefits at the public's expense. These include, but are not limited to, the use of Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) funds, planning grants, CAFRA exemptions, local property tax abatements and use of Urban Enterprise Zones (UEZ).

I would like to inquire as to whether any of these benefits require that prevailing wage be met for the jobs they create. Further, I would like to inquire as to your department's authority to determine that these benefits can trigger the prevailing wage rule, regardless of past practices and interpretation.

Any insight you can provide into this matter would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress