Prevailing Wage Phone Script

Hello my name is ________
I’m the owner of [company name] from your district. We are a [trade] contractor.
My company employs [number] of employees.
We have been in business for [number] years.

We are calling to express the importance of Davis-Bacon/Prevailing Wage laws to our company. We ask you to support locally prevailing wages on federal government and government assisted projects and oppose any efforts to repeal/weaken the Davis-Bacon Act. Prevailing wages simply reflect wage and benefit standards of local contractors, their workers and the economies of local communities completing federal and federally assisted projects. Davis-Bacon is not the union scaled wage benefit package it is a locally prevailing wage in an area.

Opponents of prevailing wage laws claim that repealing or weakening the wage policy will save taxpayer dollars, yet studies indicate that construction costs are not affected by prevailing wages but the absence of prevailing wages increases taxpayer burdens by increasing the likelihood that construction workers will earn incomes below the poverty level, become more dependent on public assistance, and will not have health insurance and retirement benefits.

The main purpose of prevailing wage laws is to protect local construction labor standards from distortions associated with publicly funded construction. Large infusions of government spending into an area, along with a contract award process that favors the lowest bidder, may attract contractors from areas where construction worker wage rates are lower and where the industry underinvests in skills development. Competition between these out-of-area and local contractors may result in the erosion of local compensation standards and the labor market institutions designed to develop and enhance workers’ production, skills, and safety. Prevailing wage laws create a level playing field for all contractors by ensuring that public works expenditures maintain and support local area standards.

Please support locally prevailing wages on federal government and government assisted projects and oppose any efforts to repeal/weaken the Davis-Bacon Act.