



NECA

WESTERN PA

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

POLITICAL UPDATE

April 2017

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- [NECA in Harrisburg Legislative Day](#)
- [WPA NECA PAC Off to a Rousing Start](#)
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WPA NECA Storms Harrisburg's Capitol Hill



*The group representing WPA NECA in Harrisburg included (top L to R) Bob Bruce, Jonathan Bruce, Tim Schultheis, Mark Mikec, (bottom L to R) Bob Dagostino, Greg McQuaide, and Chapter Executive Director Chad Jones.
(Not pictured: Government Affairs Coordinator Joelle Salerno)*

Western PA and Penn-Del-Jersey NECA had a fantastic start to what will hopefully become an annual legislative advocacy day in the Pennsylvania state capitol.

On March 21st, the Western PA NECA delegation led more than 10 meetings with PA House and Senate members of both political parties throughout the day. Contractors sat down with legislators in their capitol offices to discuss PACE, prompt payment of subcontractors, and NECA's emphasis on workforce investment through apprenticeship and family-sustaining wages.

The meetings have already resulted in at least two new cosponsors to NECA-supported legislation.

Contractors arrived in Harrisburg in the afternoon of Monday, March 20th, and attended an evening of events with key legislators supporting PA NECA's efforts.

Senators Guy Reschenthaler and John Blake attended as the sponsors of the NECA-supported Property-Assessed Clean Energy bill ([SB234](#)). Senator Camera Bartolotta, a cosponsor of SB234, was also on hand, networking with Western PA NECA contractors.

From Eastern PA, Representative Mike Driscoll gave the group an update on the initiative for prompt payment for subcontractors ([HB566](#)), which was the subject of a House Commerce committee hearing in Philadelphia in early March. Representative Ed Nielsen, a former IBEW Local 98 electrician and friend of the Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter, also stopped by.

After a cocktail reception, the contractors enjoyed dinner, accompanied by a legislative briefing led by the Western PA and Penn-Del-Jersey government affairs staff, detailing best practices for meetings in the Capitol and the legislative issues the NECA groups would be discussing with elected officials.

[Click here](#) to see Western PA NECA's full Twitter feed from the Harrisburg

trip.

WPA NECA PAC Off to a Rousing Start

The Western PA NECA Political Action Committee (WPA NECA PAC) is officially registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and has already received a number of generous contributions from the NECA community!

Western PA Chapter Governor Todd Mikec will serve as Chairman of WPA NECA PAC, and Executive Director Chad Jones is the PAC Treasurer.

WPA NECA PAC is analogous to the national NECAPAC, which donates to federal-level elected officials and candidates from around the country who support NECA National's legislative goals in the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Instead of federal candidates, WPA NECA PAC will use every dollar to support Pennsylvania's state- and local-level legislators and elected officials, who make decisions on issues such as the Prevailing Wage, the Separations Act, apprenticeship requirements, labor law enforcement, and many others.

While each PAC serves a different purpose, both are important tools for making NECA contractors' voices heard in Washington, D.C. and in Harrisburg.

[Click here](#) to access the WPA NECA PAC contribution form. ***Personal checks only, per PA law. No corporate checks please!***

Western PA NECA Supports the PA Separations Act

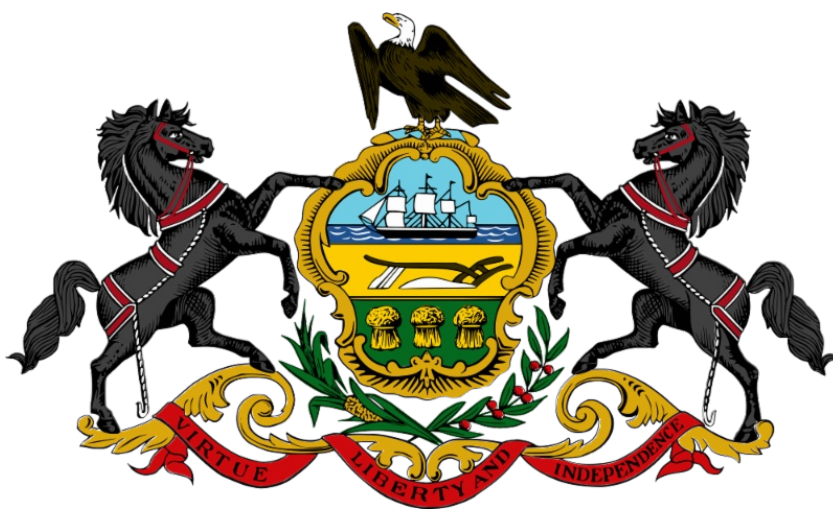
Pennsylvania is one of only a few states that still uses multiple prime bidding on state-level public projects, requiring the state to bid separately for major specialty contracts, including electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and others.

In Pennsylvania, the law requiring multiple prime bidding is known as the PA Separations Act, and it has been in effect for 104 years.

Most states have moved to the single prime method under the guise of allegedly streamlined and less expensive construction. Each year, we see efforts to undermine or entirely abolish the Separations Act, despite decades of research indicating that, in addition to being less transparent for taxpayers, single prime projects turn out to cost between three to 10 percent more than equivalent single prime projects.

Arguments to neuter the Separations Act have been circulating among some in the Pittsburgh construction community, so Western PA NECA responded to demonstrate the positive impact of the PA Separations Act.

[Click here](#) to read Executive Director Chad Jones' LinkedIn post explaining why this historic legislation is still relevant today and should be protected.



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The NECA logo features the letters "NECA" in a large, bold, black serif font. Above the letters is a stylized, golden sunburst or flame-like graphic. Below the letters, the text "WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

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