

Reference #  
16519135



## DENVER CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar

26-0542: An ordinance amending Section 20-76, Division 3, Article IV, Chapter 20 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code regarding prevailing wage paid to certain workers. / Una ordenanza que modifica la Sección 20-76, División 3, Artículo IV, Capítulo 20 del Código Municipal Revisado de Denver con respecto al salario prevaleciente pagado a ciertos trabajadores.

First Name / Nombre

Luis

Last Name / Apellido

Ponce

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

I am / Estoy

For the item / a favor del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Re: Support for Proposed Amendment to the Denver Prevailing Wage Ordinance

Dear Members of the Denver City Council,

On behalf of the thousands of working people represented by SEIU Local 105, I write in strong support of the proposed amendment to clarify and strengthen Denver's Prevailing Wage Ordinance (PWO). The workers we represent at the City of Denver — janitors, security officers, airport service workers, and more— depend on fair wage standards to support their families and participate fully in our community. The prevailing wage is not a technicality; it is a

cornerstone of economic dignity for working people in Denver.

When the City invests public dollars in a project, those dollars should uplift our community — not subsidize poverty wages. By setting a floor on compensation for work performed on City-owned or leased property or funded by it, the PWO ensures that contractors compete on quality and innovation rather than on who can squeeze the most out of their workforce. This protection is especially critical for the low-wage workers and workers of color who are disproportionately represented in the industries the PWO covers.

The scope of this ordinance has been clearly understood for many years. Since at least 2016, when then-Auditor O'Brien convened a collaborative process with unions, trade organizations, and policy experts to review and refine the PWO, it has been the established understanding that the ordinance applies to City-funded projects on private land. That interpretation was not accidental — it was deliberate and well-reasoned, reflecting the intent to ensure that public investment benefits workers regardless of where the work takes place. It is therefore unacceptable that this law has not been consistently followed.

SEIU Local 105 fully supports the Council's effort to amend the ordinance to clarify its language and remove any ambiguity that has allowed enforcement to lag. We are grateful for this Council's ongoing commitment to working people and for your willingness to take action when workers' rights are at stake. Your leadership on this issue matters enormously to our members and to the broader working community across Denver.

We urge the Council to move swiftly in passing this amendment, and we call on the City Attorney's Office to allow the prevailing wage law as it is written and as it was intended — now and going forward. The working people of Denver deserve nothing less.

Finish Time

2026-04-17 16:00:40