

2021-1

**RESOLUTION NO. OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1234 THAT WOULD INVALIDATE LOCAL RESPONSIBLE  
BIDDERS' ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, cities and counties in Indiana have historically enjoyed the privileges of home rule governance, especially in matters intimately related to their taxpayers' interests;

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of LaPorte County have a substantial interest in the prudent stewardship of their monies, which is entrusted to both the LaPorte County Commission and LaPorte County Council;

WHEREAS, Responsible Bidder Ordinances have not been shown to have an adverse financial impact on the total construction costs of public works projects;

WHEREAS, RBOs encourage more bid competition on taxpayer-funded projects;

WHEREAS, RBOs increase the use of highly trained and skilled construction workers on such projects;

WHEREAS, RBOs require contractor participation in United States Department of Labor (USDOL)-approved apprenticeship programs, allowing apprentices to "earn while they learn" on the job;

WHEREAS, USDOL-approved apprenticeship programs train a skilled construction workforce at no cost to Indiana's taxpayers;

WHEREAS, more than fifty public entities in Indiana have passed RBOs in order to provide taxpayers with proof that the contractors they hire have a demonstrated record of safety, training, and good stewardship of public funds;

WHEREAS, duly elected local officials should be trusted to determine whether more stringent bidding requirements are appropriate for the projects they let;

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WHEREAS, this body has become aware of House Bill 1234, filed in the Indiana House of Representatives;

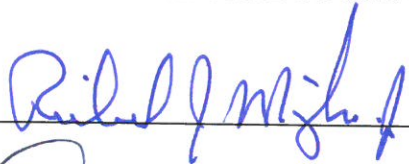
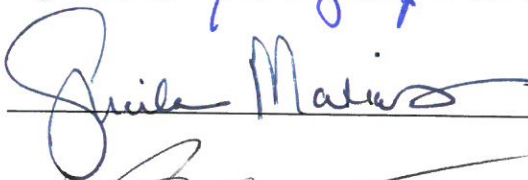

WHEREAS, House Bill 1234 would outlaw all local units of government in Indiana from passing and utilizing RBOs when letting taxpayer-funded projects;

WHEREAS, House Bill 1234 would undoubtedly weaken home rule authority in local communities across Indiana;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Commissioners of LaPorte County urges the Indiana General Assembly to reject House Bill 1234's attack on local bidding standards and workforce development, and instead support Indiana's local governments, working families and the small businesses that go above and beyond in service to their employees and the communities in which they live and work. We further resolve to provide a fully executed copy of the above and foregoing to all legislators who represent any portion of LaPorte County.

All of which is resolved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021

BOARD OF LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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Attest:



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LaPorte County Auditor

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