LABOR INITIATIVE
OF THE COLORADO DEMOCRATIC PARTY
RESOLUTION
REGARDING PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT
Veterans' Administration Hospital
Fitzsimons campus, Aurora, Colorado

WHEREAS, large-scale construction projects pose special challenges to
efficient and timely procurement; and

WHEREAS, construction employers typically do not have a permanent
workforce, which makes it difficult for them to predict labor costs
when bidding on contracts and to ensure a steady supply of labor on
contracts being performed; and

WHEREAS, challenges also arise due to the fact that construction projects
typically involve multiple employers at a single location; and

WHEREAS, a labor dispute involving one employer can delay an entire
project; and

WHEREAS, a lack of coordination among various employers, or uncertainty
about the terms and conditions of employment of various groups of
workers, can create frictions and disputes in the absence of an
agreed-upon resolution mechanism; and

WHEREAS, these problems threaten the efficient and timely completion of
construction projects; and

WHEREAS, project labor agreements (PLA's) are pre-hire collective
bargaining agreements that establish the terms and conditions of
employment on one or more construction projects; and

WHEREAS, PLA's establish fair wages and benefits that are in full
compliance with labor and employment standards; and

WHEREAS, scores of large projects, both public and private, have been
built across the nation using PLA's; and

WHEREAS, the efficient management of these projects has saved
taxpayers and investors billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, construction users increasingly favor PLA's because they
reduce some of the uncertainty inherent in large-scale construction
projects; and

WHEREAS, PLA's ensure a steady flow of highly trained construction labor;
and

WHEREAS, recent data show that safety input is greater on PLA projects;
and
WHEREAS, PLA's can also be used to meet various social needs, such as increasing minority employment and participation on projects by minority and women business enterprises; and

WHEREAS, there is no substantial evidence that PLA's decrease the number of bidders on a project, or increase the costs of construction projects; and

WHEREAS, any PLA with the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council will have as one of its terms the standard Helmets to Hardhats language from the Building and Construction Trades Department, which reads as follows:

Section 1. The Employers and the Unions recognize a desire to facilitate the entry into the building and construction trades of Veterans who are interested in careers in the building and construction industry. The Employers and Unions agree to utilize the services of the Center for Military Recruitment, and Assessment and Veterans Employment (hereinafter "Center") and the Center's "Helmets to Hardhats" program to serve as a resource for preliminary orientation, assessment of construction aptitude, referral to apprenticeship programs or hiring halls, counseling and mentoring, support network, employment opportunities and other needs as identified by the parties.

Section 2. The Unions and Employers agree to coordinate with the Center to create and maintain an integrated database of Veterans interested in working this project and of apprenticeship and employment opportunities for this project. To the extent permitted by law, the Unions will give credit to such Veterans for bona fide, provable past experience.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the LABOR INITIATIVE OF THE COLORADO DEMOCRATIC PARTY, on this 15th day of April, 2009, that it is in the best interest of the State of Colorado and the Federal Government that the Veterans Hospital being constructed on the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center property in Aurora, CO 80017, be constructed using a Project Labor Agreement to be administered by the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council.

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