

**From:** [John Zottola](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2019.EX6.3 on June 18, 2019 City Council  
**Date:** June 17, 2019 5:04:04 PM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 18, 2019 City Council meeting on item 2019.EX6.3, Schedule 9, Changes to the Labour Relations Act, 1995 - Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2019

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

**Comments on Behalf of the Ontario Road Builders' Association**

The Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA) represents the interests of over 300 contractors and materials and service providers who employ over 30,000 workers across Ontario. Contractor members of our association support fair procurement practices, in which all qualified contractors should have the opportunity at bidding a public project, regardless of their labour affiliation (or lack thereof).

Across the province, many of our members have been unable to bid on projects that are funded by their tax dollars, and that of their workers, because of various municipal '*construction employer*' designations dictating that millions of dollars in public infrastructure work must be awarded based on union affiliation, not qualifications or experience. Such measures as this has the consequence of denying the City of Toronto the benefits of a competitive and open marketplace, which brings not only price competition, but also facilitates the achievement of quality and innovation standards and objectives.

ORBA has passed numerous motions in support of Fair and Open Tendering, dating back to 2005 when the City of Hamilton was certified as a '*construction employer*'. We were again active on this issue after the Region of Waterloo found itself in the same situation in 2012. Most recently, we have supported the City of Sault Ste. Marie in its bid to become a '*non-construction employer*'.

We wholeheartedly support the potential for the City of Toronto to become a '*non-construction employer*' in the interests of fairness for all workers and businesses, and to save tax dollars through a more competitive bidding process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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