



# NEWS RELEASE

**LEGGETT COSTS 22% MORE THAN PREVIOUS APS PROJECTS, YET APS RUSHES TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES.**

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AKRON, OH.—Today, the Northern Ohio Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a trade group representing Merit Shop contractors, protested Akron Public School's vote to expand union Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) to additional construction projects.

To date, the only project where a PLA has been used is the Leggett Community Learning Center.

Ryan Martin, President and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) said that a PLA is discriminatory against Merit Shop contractors and costs taxpayers more. Martin cited an Ohio School Facilities Commission report that showed Leggett is costing 22% more than the Findley Community Learning Center and 14% more than Barber.

Earlier this week, APS officials cited the increased local participation amongst construction workers as reason to continue the use of the agreements. But Martin claimed this was disingenuous.

“Merit Shop companies outperformed union ones on both Barber and Findley in terms of local worker participation. According to APS reports, unions only produced 55% of their workforce from Summit County, while Merit Shop companies produced 64% of its workforce from Summit County. APS responded to our success by virtually locking us out of participating,” Martin said.

Prior to Leggett's PLA, contracts awarded for APS projects were virtually the same between union and non-union companies, according to APS records. On Leggett, only one non-union contractor has been awarded a contract versus seven union contractors.

“Here we have an agreement that costs taxpayers more, discriminates against Merit Shop companies, and rewards the underachievers. It is a taxpayer-be-damned attitude; and APS is certainly not going to let facts get in the way of keeping the unions happy. They ought to be ashamed.”

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Northern Ohio Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is the largest association in Ohio representing the interests of Merit Shop construction companies and employees. Merit Shop construction workers represent the majority of construction workers in Ohio. ABC promotes awarding of contracts based upon merit without regard to labor affiliation.