

Good Afternoon, Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on an important subject, close to the hearts of the many members I represent in the Building Trades.

The Base provides thousands of jobs for local residents, that being said, the Base also supports our local economy, even the state.

The local members I represent, work in the construction field. The Base provides a lot of construction opportunities, offering renovations, additions, and maintenance, to name a few.

The work on the Base provides paychecks, which in turn spurs the local economy. The many jobs I see being bid out, are to out of state contractors with no realized economic advantage to the local economy.

Our local contractors have an advantage that the Base can save, in my opinion, an enormous expenditure of resources.

The cost savings include:

- Efficient Production Capabilities
- Production Facilities located in close proximity to Base projects.
- Production Facilities utilize High Technology Standards
- Highly skilled Local area workforce
- High quality Local apprenticeship standards
- Workforce lives in the immediate area
- The Base can work directly with the necessary trade, as a cost saving measure.

Some of the Concerns with projects on the Base are as follows:

- Information on future projects on the Base.
- Lead time on project information.
- Fair competition for local area companies.
- Security issues that hinder access to projects.
- Access to project personnel.

These points I have relayed are only a few, I feel a cohesive relationship with the Bases and local area residents, and small businesses will yield immense cost saving measures.

Johnnie Whittington

Business Representative

Sheet Metal Workers Local 27