

Rule 123:2-15-02: I am outraged. I cannot believe that you would really want to rescind these rules which will greatly help disadvantaged small business owners. It is a fact that disadvantaged small businesses do not have the profit margins, capital or the number of completed contracts that advantaged small business owners have, thus the need to keep affirmative action is necessary.

I have noticed that in order to keep contracts viable for the status quote small businesses, the requirements for small businesses interested in bidding has been adjusted to require: 7 million in net worth, previous govt. contracts, no bids with multiple (small businesses working together for a project) submissions.

Every effort that small business make to enter in government contracting is being stifled by this unfair acts.

If the OH legislative is interested in going back to the gilded ages is will see the worse days it have never experienced before it.

I am outraged by this rescindence of the proposed amendments.

We have been fighting this battle of overt racism for years. Many a potential customer will not give a minority business an opportunity because they feel the service and product are inferior. I promote the sale of coal and the coal suppliers will only deal with me when it is a Set Aside. Otherwise they go to the customer direct without the minority enterprise/company.

I am strongly opposed to any weakening of the current program which is designed to make the playing field more level. Resistance is difficult to overcome because of built in resistance and subtle racism.

For the record let it be known Vidatt Energy Inc. wants the current program to remain and strengthened.

I believe the MBE portion of the rules should remain. As a minority business the edge participation rules only allowed majority companies to put their daughters and wives in business and once again took away business from true minority firms. Peak Electric Inc. would hope that the rules are not rescinded with regards to MBE and Edge participation.

As a stakeholder, I feel that any changes that fail to restore the State of Ohio mandatory MBE requirements in construction bidding and construction contracts to where they were prior to being struck down by the courts in 1998, is totally useless.

As a subcontractor prior to that action by the courts, MBE contractors such as myself had at least an opportunity to secure work on construction projects and establish relationships with non MBE prime contractors whom would otherwise work only with other non MBE subcontractors that look like themselves.

Only a rule change that restores the MBE program to where it was before being struck down by the courts can be considered praise worthy.

We are submitting our comments on MBE program rules 123:2 -15 -02 thru 06 as follows :
MBE program has supported and provided Business opportunities to all such businesses- rescinding will harm the Business and Ohio opportunity.

Additionally, MBE certification of DAS has been a model for many municipalities- If we are MBE certified with DAS- we get the business opportunity at other municipalities- where they recognize MBE program but have no provisions for certification.

We request you to not rescind the program.

I have reviewed everything and I have no concerns or comment.

I will say I have one suggest that I know will never happen but I have to say it. Eliminate the words "Set-Aside" and make the law that the State will do 15% of its business with MBE. Due to the wording "Set-Aside" and how STSs work, we can purchase from an MBE vendor and it only count as Participation. If we removed "Set-Aside" we could also remove "Participation". I know this most likely will never happen but the reason for the law is to give MBE vendors State business and it should not matter how they get the business as long as they get the business. I know things are changing with STSs and if there are 3 MBE vendors you can now get Set-Aside credit. But there are still STSs that do not have 3 MBE vendors. Also if I get 2 MBE quotes and 1 non-MBE quote and one of the MBE quotes is best and I select them, why can I not get proper MBE credit. That is even saying more about the MBE vendor.

Thanks for giving me this chance to vent but I know this will most likely never happen.