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GCAP: Governor's Veto of Legislation that Provided COVID-19 Liability Protection for Employers is Disappointing

House Bill 1737 Had Support from 80 Associations

Harrisburg, PA – The General Contractors Association of Pennsylvania (GCAP) was one of eighty Pennsylvania associations who united, led by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry, to support House Bill 1737. This legislation included comprehensive, temporary, pandemic-related liability protections. A statewide, collective sigh of rejection from the eighty organizations happened today when Governor Tom Wolf vetoed HB1737.

GCAP executive director Jon O'Brien issued the following statement in response to Governor Tom Wolf's veto:

"Across Pennsylvania, during the COVID-19 pandemic, construction companies have been focused on keeping the workforce safe while trying to recover economically. GCAP construction companies have been exemplary in abiding by Pennsylvania's Construction Guidelines and we continue to share our best practices with Pennsylvania Departments of Community Economic Development and Labor & Industry. Also, concerning the guidelines, I feel compelled to point that we assisted in creating them ([Governor Wolf's press release announcing the creation of Construction Guidelines](#))."

"This veto was deflating and comes at perhaps the worst time. During these unprecedented times, many construction companies are working in good faith when it comes to arming our workers with the PPE to be safe on the jobsites; however these PPE

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costs were not part of the estimate since no one foresaw what 2020 would bring and many clients are telling contractors that ‘they’ll settle up’ after the project on added costs. Additionally, backlog of future work is down since some clients are unsure of what the future holds so they are not willing to put work out to bid. Our industry was hopeful that we could get some good news and some much-needed liability protections, instead construction companies have to keep their guard up against trial lawyers anxious to profit from the pandemic.”

“The construction industry will get through this pandemic stronger and smarter than before. The veto of HB1737 was definitely disappointing, but we will continue to work with the General Assembly and groups like the Pennsylvania Chamber – collectively we can improve our economy while keeping our workforce safe.”

ABOUT GCAP: Established in 1953, GCAP is an organization representing the memberships of General Building Contractors Association, Keystone Contractors Association, and Master Builders’ Association. Collectively, GCAP represents over 700-plus commercial construction companies based throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For more information visit <https://generalcontractorsofpa.com/>.

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