



Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

August 28, 2000

Mr. Keith R. Leigh
628 Columbus Street, Suite 208
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Dear Mr. Leigh:

Thank you for your July 26, 2000 letter to James J. Jereb regarding responsible bidder determination policy. You state in your letter that you are unable to concur with the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) position that the requirement of an approved apprenticeship and training program restricts bidders to union contractors.

We have recently met with the U.S. Department of Labor to discuss their apprenticeship and training program. Contrary to our previous understanding, participation in this program is not exclusive to union contractors and therefore would not unduly restrict competitive bidding. By copy of this letter we are advising our IDOT District 3 office in Ottawa that the inclusion of the apprenticeship and training program requirement is permissible for MFT-funded projects.

In fairness to the industry, the apprenticeship and training requirements should be a part of the prequalification criteria for obtaining a bidding proposal. Another option would be to include a notice of their use in the advertisement for bids.

Thank you for taking the time to research and provide input on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell W. McMurray".

Darrell W. McMurray, P.E.
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

cc-
James J. Jereb Attn: James Threadgill III

bcc-
Lynn Forbes Attn: George Sherer