



SUTER
Service that suits you!

12' 8-31-21

Thursday, August 26, 2021

To The Woodbury County Authority & Board of Supervisors,

Lately there has been a lot of news regarding the workforce that is being utilized to construct the new Woodbury County Law Enforcement Center. This news speaks ill of the workforce that is currently contracted to build and complete this essential project. It has been put out to the public, The Authority, and the Board of Supervisors that this project is utilizing all out-of-state contractors, that there is disappointment with the workforce, and/or the workforce is not qualified to carry out this effort. As a local contractor, who is contracted to be a part of this project's team, we feel as though we need to defend ourselves to some degree as not all the information, as it is presented, is entirely true.

This project is not utilizing "all" out-of-state, or non-local, contractors. C.W Suter has been local to the community since 1926. We have built our business by developing a strong relationship with our community in which we serve. We are one of many contractors that are locally contracted to be part of this team to work on this project. We make up approximately 20% of the overall contract of work to be completed. We have approximately 155 employees at C.W. Suter. Our employees, and their families, depend on this local work to support and be active in our local community. To our knowledge, upwards of 60% of the workforce contracted to be a part of this project is local. This said, we do understand that not all the workforce is local, although this is true of most projects that are bid in our community. Our community does not support all the qualified trades necessary to complete these projects. Especially, a project of this nature. We are pleased to hear the number of local contractors currently signed up to be a part of this necessary project.

Regarding our qualifications, we at C.W. Suter invest in ongoing training for all our employees. Not only do we have the experience from long term members of our team, we also have a training program (Suter University) approved by the United States Department of Labor. We developed this program, along with U.S. department of labor, to ensure we are providing the necessary training to produce qualified personnel to serve our community and our customers. Not only does this program offer the training and on-going training to our current team members, but it also offers an avenue for kids coming out of our schools that want to learn our trade. This program can offer a career path for kids to be able to thrive in our community that do not want to go to a four-year college.

We are sending this letter out to you, The Woodbury County Authority and the Board of Supervisors, to let you know that we are not all out-of-state contractors. There is a good majority of us that reside right here in Woodbury County and the Siouxland area. We are qualified contractors. We support and give back to our community. We take pride in who we are and our reputation. To hear some of the statements made about us, and other contractors in our community, as to who we are and our qualifications as it relates to this much needed project is disheartening.

Sincerely,

Employees & Families of C.W. Suter & Son, Inc.

Commercial Plumbing • Heating and Cooling
Temperature Control • Air Duct Cleaning • Architectural Sheet Metal
1800 11th Street • Sioux City, IA 51101 • Business (712) 252-3007 • Fax (712) 252-2410