

Local contracts going to out-of-state firms

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I am a frustrated tradesman. I have worked in the construction field for the last 20 years in the Reno area.

What I am seeing today in this market is a lot of out-of-area contractors picking up a number of projects. Just a couple of years ago these projects would have gone to local contractors who would have hired local workers who contribute back to the local economy many times over.

Just to name a few projects: the Meadowood Mall interchange, an out-of-area general contractor bringing out-of-area workers to construct this interchange; a large retail outlet being constructed off Lemmon Valley Road, again an out-of-state general contractor who has hired subcontractors as far away as Texas and Las Vegas to perform work on this project, bringing their work force with them; and yet another example is a large home improvement store coming to the Legends at the Sparks Marina, an out-of-state general contractor who in turn is hiring out-of-state and -area subcontractors.

I think everyone, including local elected officials, should be promoting local contractors with local workers being put back to work to help our local economy recover quicker.

Ken Meyer, Reno

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