

ood business sense for small-but-  
7 companies.

struction is a competitive business,  
wouldn't be fair to have insurers to  
surance to compete against those  
not, but their employees are still ef-  
y covered via a tax subsidy," Ed-  
aid.

t Thrower, president of the Char-  
EW chapter and a general foreman  
eferred Electric, a Charlotte-based  
al contractor, agrees with that rea-  
He cites Preferred Electric, which  
enefits to its 150 employees as an  
e: it often loses construction bids to  
companies, which often have lower  
d costs, Thrower said.

everyone had to (provide insurance),  
mean more of an even playing field  
ontractors to bid on a job against a  
contractor," Thrower said. "At least  
ll guy would have had to have been  
nsurance like we are."

ontractors associations use the rea-  
as an argument against the amend-  
hrower says the recession actually  
n favor of it.

n the residential market dried up,  
dential contractors, who are small  
ot into the commercial industry,"  
r said. "And when we're competing  
them, they don't offer benefits. ...  
ive a lower bid because they have  
erhead."

Kelly, of Kelly-McArdle, doesn't see  
tion as a big problem. Most estab-  
ompanies, he said, already offer

u're bidding against your equal,  
n a level playing field," Kelly said.  
most customers know the differ-  
ween a legitimate company and a  
pickup truck."

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