

CARPENTER ECONOMICS

INAUGURAL ISSUE



How Politicians
Affect Your
Paycheck

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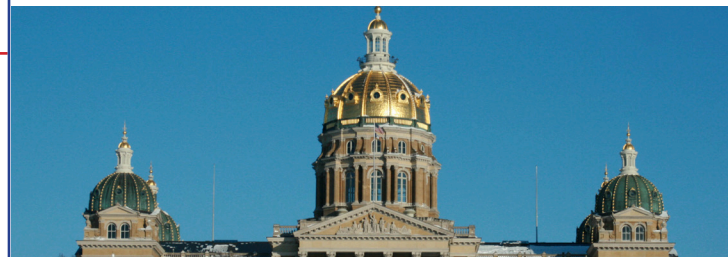
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JOHN G. RAINES
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER
NCSRCC

Carpenter Economics: Your Job and Your Paycheck

lobbying on behalf of an important \$1.8 billion bonding bill in Minnesota in 2020. Our work outlook could have been jeopardized by the pandemic, and the legislature looked like it was not going to pass a bonding bill at a time our members and the economy needed it most.

I met with legislative leaders, withheld resources and endorsements, and encouraged members to get actively involved in politics. I encouraged labor and community leaders to do the same until the legislature passed the bonding bill. Our members get paid when their work is done. The same standard should apply to politicians in state capitols and in Washington, D.C. I have been clearly stating this fact for years. Thankfully, the bonding bill was eventually passed with bipartisan support.

Another recent victory occurred when our membership was deemed to be essential and allowed to work while large segments of the economy were shut down due to COVID-19. We worked with governors in our states to be able to work because of our ability to demonstrate that we could work safely. Some states saw their construction industries grind to a halt. Due to our efforts, members were able to continue working and providing for their families.

Passing bonding bills, engaging in executive orders, working with government officials on all levels and building power amongst our own membership are actions related to Carpenter Economics. This is our way of looking at politics. In the end, politics is about power and decision-making. We need to be a part of that decision-making because it affects our paychecks and our families.

Carpenter Economics is also about holding politicians accountable. It is about pressuring them to put working people first. It means focusing on the bread-and-butter issues that impact all of us, not chasing social issues that are trendy or popular in the media.

We all need fight to advance the cause of Carpenter Economics!

Have you heard enough about politics over the past few years? We are all living through the most divisive and politically charged years most of us have ever experienced. There is so much information and news being directed at us that it can be difficult to sort through and make informed decisions. As an organization, we remain diligently focused on politics that impact our union. We will now begin providing you with an annual Carpenter Economics publication which demonstrates the political strategies and actions behind the policies and programs that impact your job security, wages and benefits.

As a brotherhood, we work through many challenging issues that affect our health, our retirement, our working conditions, our contracts, and our ability to earn what we are owed. We also recognize that we must preserve these items for our future brothers and sisters. Politics, elections, and the passing and enforcing of laws have never jeopardized these issues more than they do today.

You do not have to look far to see what can be lost or gained with one executive action or one significant piece of legislation. I was personally involved in negotiating and

Local Politicians Make the Difference

Few unions do the necessary field work to increase area labor standards like the Carpenters. We work with federal, state and municipal elected officials and frequently lead the way amongst other labor unions. We understand the importance of not leaving members' wages, benefits, safety, and livelihoods to chance.

Municipal-level politics do not attract the same level of attention as federal and state politics; however, there is good reason to spend significant time and resources on them. Municipal government often determines job creation and jobsite area labor standards. The Minnesota political department is working to ensure that we have a "champion" city councilmember identified in our 100 most populated cities. Once we have our "champion", we will continue working to obtain a majority of votes on those city councils.

West Saint Paul was a city where we were surprised to learn area labor standards were at risk. It is a small suburb of Saint Paul with a population of 20,000. It has a high concentration of union households and activists. We learned from our "champion" that the city council was considering a repeal of their prevailing wage ordinance. The ordinance requires developers, who receive public funds, to pay workers the prevailing wage. The discussion to repeal prevailing wage occurred while a developer with a problematic past went before the city council for project approval and tax increment financing (TIF).

It became apparent that some city councilmembers were not as supportive of area labor standards as they led us to believe. Mark Goethel, (Local 68 –

St. Paul, MN), encouraged carpenters to contact their city councilmembers while NCSRCC staff lobbied them. They felt the pressure resulting in all six councilmembers and the mayor voting not to repeal the prevailing wage ordinance. Unfortunately, the problematic construction project was approved. Although, we had a "champion" on the city council, we did not have a majority of the votes we needed to protect that construction site.

Instead of just accepting the vote results, we immediately started working to change the members on the city council. Fortunately, two non-supportive councilmembers were up for re-election and quality candidates were already stepping up to run for office. NCSRCC endorsed Julie Eastman and Robyn Gulley and began knocking on doors to successfully help get them elected.

"When I learned that my councilperson wanted to repeal our city's prevailing wage ordinance, I was deeply concerned that it would open the door to wage theft and human rights abuses in my neighborhood. I am proud to work alongside Carpenters to protect our prevailing wage ordinance. Carpenters' support was vital to my win against the anti-union councilmember. Today, more than \$150 million in development is moving forward in the city all under prevailing wage," said newly-elected Councilwoman Robyn Gulley.

The majority of the city council members now support carpenter economics. We are confident that an attempt to decrease labor standards with the current members of the city council is unlikely to pass.



WAYS YOU CAN BE PROACTIVE WITH YOUR CITY OFFICIALS

- 1 Request time to speak with your mayor and city councilmembers to begin building a relationship.
- 2 Email your mayor and city councilmember to let them know about issues related to carpenter economics that are important to you and your family.
- 3 Attend a city council meeting and be visible. Wear work-related union clothing.
- 4 Monitor meeting agendas of your city council. You can find most agendas online or by calling the office of your city clerk. Notify your state political director immediately if there is an agenda item related to labor standards, a particular project of concern or one that we should lend support.
- 5 Work with our political departments to determine if your city council supports carpenter issues. If not, let us work together to change that.
- 6 Run for city council! The best one to represent us is one of us.

Carpenters in Politics

County and school boards, city councils and other public offices regularly make decisions that directly impact our members. Whether it is deciding which contractors will be hired or determining city budgets and priorities, it is important for carpenters to be a part of these discussions. Participation in local politics ensures union values and voices are heard. Listed below is a current list of members serving their communities in a public position.

Ryan Austin, Local 804 - Wisconsin Rapids, WI Wisconsin Rapids Common Council		Gary Huc, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI Crivitz School Board	
Tom Bakk, Local 606 - Virginia, MN Minnesota State Senate, District 03		Dave Jacoby, Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA Iowa Legislator, House District 74 Johnson County	
Matt Bieser, Local 344 - Pewaukee, WI Delavan City Council Member		Tom Klika, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI Town of Glenmore Supervisor	
Mark Bruner, Local 314 - Madison, WI Brooklyn Village President		William Krueger, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI Town of New Denmark Chair	
Rob Busch, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN Columbus City Council Member		Pat Loeffler, Local 308 - Cedar Rapids, IA Cedar Rapids City Council Member	
Dennis Cashman, Local 1146 - Green Bay, WI Town of Rockland Chair		Scott Luostari, Local 361 - Hermantown, MN Douglas County Supervisor	
Dennis Clegg, Local 1056 - Kaukauna, WI Outagamie County Supervisor		Michael Nelson, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN Minnesota State House, House District 40A	
Dave Coenen, Local 1056 - Kaukauna, WI Dayton Planning Commission		Royce Peterson, Local 1260 - Iowa City, IA Hawkeye on Safety Committee Member Hawkeye Area Labor Council Trustee	
Ernie Colt, Local 948 - Sioux City, IA Western Iowa Workforce Development Board		Jeff Peterson, Local 322 - Saint Paul, MN Forrest Lake School Board Member	
James Cox, Local 427 - Papillion, NE Mayor of Modale, IA		Rhea Pierce, Local 678 - Dubuque, IA Eastern Iowa Workforce Development Board	
Gene Dornink, Local 1382 - Rochester, MN Minnesota State Senate, District 27 (former member)		Brian Schmuggerow, Local 1056 - Kaukauna, WI Couderay Village President	
Derek Duehr, Local 678 - Dubuque, IA Stonehill Benevolent Foundation Board Greater Dubuque Development Corp		Matt Scott, Local 427 - Papillion, NE Sarpy County Economic Development Committee Greater Lincoln Work Force Development Committee	
Richard Glomski, Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI Town of Schleswig Supervisor		Chuck Spoehr, Local 955 - Kaukauna, WI Fox Valley Technical College Board Member	
Jesse Gregerson, Local 427 - Papillion, NE Downtown Omaha INC Board Member		John Wiener, Local 310 - Rothschild, WI Ashland County Supervisor	
Kevin Hennessey, Local 1143 - La Crosse, WI West Salem Village Board		Chuck Yohanek, Local 731 - Sheboygan, WI Reedsville School Board	

Every Vote Counts

Two Votes Win Mayoral Race

However, Councilmember Lisa Jacobson stood out as chair of the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (EDA). The EDA and other subcommittees of city councils, like planning commissions, are frequently our best opportunity to provide education about developers and general contractors who engage in wage theft, trafficking, and tax fraud. Councilmember Jacobson has been a strong advocate for our members and was always willing to ask the tough questions regarding construction industry wage theft.

She's the type of leader who always answers the phone when we call and is willing to assist. We worked with Councilmember Jacobson to table projects following information that was available about the questionable business practices of some developers. She understood our issues and was supportive of carpenter economics or those policies and programs that impact wages, benefits and job security. When we thought about who we wanted as the next mayor, Lisa Jacobson was the obvious choice.

We say it all the time. Every vote counts. This motto was demonstrated in this year's mayoral race in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Brooklyn Park is the fourth largest city in the Twin Cities metro area and has been booming with construction and housing expansion with significantly more development planned in the next decade. There is a lot at stake in Brooklyn Park regarding job creation and market share for our members.

Brooklyn Park was not scheduled to have an election in 2021. However, the former mayor was elected to the Hennepin County Board in the fall of 2020 and vacated the seat. A special election was scheduled to fill the position. Because special elections often have less voter awareness and lower turnout, it is a prime opportunity to put someone in office who can make a huge difference in creating jobs for our members. The size of Brooklyn Park and the amount of development occurring made this special election crucial for our members.

Carpenters political staff have been working with city councils to monitor projects that move through zoning or approval processes for years. We developed relationships with councilmembers on the Brooklyn Park City Council.



"The difference that the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters made to my campaign, and this win, is immeasurable."

LISA JACOBSON
MAYOR OF BROOKLYN PARK



Jim Leuthner, Local 322 Saint Paul, MN, helps put up lawn signs for Lisa Jacobson during her mayoral campaign.



Lisa Jacobson was sworn in as Mayor of Brooklyn Park, MN on Monday, August 20, 2021. She won with 3,416 votes, two more than her opponent, Hollies Winston with 3,414.

Our Regional Council staff encouraged her to consider running for mayor in late 2020 and asked her again in January of 2021. We informed her that we would support her if she decided to run for mayor. Councilmember Jacobson agreed and made the decision to run for office in a race that was shaping up to be highly visible and difficult.

As other candidates announced their campaigns, the race narrowed to Councilmember Jacobson and a previous candidate for mayor, Hollies Winston. Mr. Winston, a Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) activist, had the support of most other labor unions and many elected officials as the DFL party made an official endorsement in this mayoral race despite city council and mayoral races typically being non-partisan. This endorsement did not impact the Regional Council's support of Councilmember Jacobson. In politics, loyalty is important. Having a mutual trust with Councilmember Jacobson was important enough for us to continue supporting her mayoral campaign.

Our goal was to assist Councilmember Jacobson in her primary election where she needed to place in the top two to be on the ballot for the general election. The primary was a seven-candidate race held this past April. Hunter Sanders from Local 68 (St. Paul, MN) volunteered as the campaign's Field Director dedicating many hours between February and August. Assistant Political Director, Kim Nelson assumed several additional responsibilities along with NCSRCC volunteers who contributed countless hours to get Councilmember Jacobson on the ballot in the general election. Councilmember Jacobson placed second in the primary election.

Throughout the summer, NCSRCC volunteers dedicated countless hours to door knocking, lit dropping, and talking to neighbors in Brooklyn Park. Many members worked a full day at the construction site and frequently showed up in Brooklyn Park to volunteer for a few hours. Volunteers made a big difference in this election.

Someone from NCSRCC volunteered every day to help win this election. By the time it was Election Day, Regional Council

Candidate Name	Total
Lisa Jacobson	3416
Hollies Winston	3414
Write-ins	26

leadership, Business Representatives, members, family and friends had helped communicate with constituents about the strengths that Jacobson would bring to the job.

Councilmember Jacobson won on Election Day by one vote. The official count was 3,415 to 3,414 votes. This election was so close that it triggered a hand recount of ballots.

NCSRCC continued to show their support by providing two volunteers, one with legal and recount experience and one to monitor the recount process. This recount resulted in Councilmember Jacobson picking up one additional vote. In the end, with substantial support from the Carpenters, Brooklyn Park elected their new mayor, Lisa Jacobson, by a two-vote margin.

"Two votes? It doesn't seem possible, but I won the election to serve as the 13th Mayor of the fourth largest city in the Twin Cities metro area by two votes. The difference that the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters made to my campaign, and this win, is immeasurable. I appreciated their true dedication and commitment to put ballots in the box for me when other unions went in the opposite direction. I look forward to continuing to advocate and be a champion for issues in the construction industry," said Mayor Lisa Jacobson.

NCSRCC's endorsement and resources were vital in electing Mayor Jacobson. Our efforts have provided us with a strong advocate in the mayor's office in a market that is important to our membership. This demonstrates why politics matter and how volunteers can impact an election. Every vote counts.

Six Minnesota Politicians Work Against Carpenter Economics - Your Paycheck

It was not long ago that Minnesota legislators would introduce legislation each biennium to strip our collective bargaining rights with so-called “right-to-work” bills and attempts to erase our prevailing wage laws. These attacks were widely supported, and we designated significant time and resources to stopping bills in committee and were prepared to preserve our rights through introducing floor amendments. Over the last decade, we have expanded our bipartisan outreach and worked extensively to stop these attacks on our members.

During the 2021 session, only six of the 201 legislators in the Minnesota House of Representatives signed onto a right-to-work bill. In the Senate, no matching bill was introduced nor were any bills seeking to change prevailing wage laws. The decline in the number of legislators support-

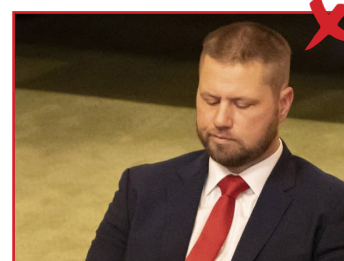
ing these harmful bills and the lack of further legislation demonstrates the positive political relationships that the members and staff of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters have built with members of the Minnesota House and Senate. We know we need to focus on carpenter economics, and that means working across the aisle wherever and whenever we can.

The six House Members who did sign on to the right-to-work bill are the elected officials we need to unseat. If you live in their area, please let them know what you think of them supporting this anti-union legislation regardless of whether you affiliate more with the Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Republican, or the Independent Party. You can also consider running against them as our political staff can assist you with that process.

UNSEAT SIX HOUSE MEMBERS WHO SIGNED THE RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL



Rep. Drazkowski, Mazeppa



Rep. Mortensen, Shakopee



Rep. Miller, Prinsburg



Rep. Munson, Lake Crystal



Rep. Bahr, East Bethel



Rep. Lucero, St. Michael

SENATORS WHO VOTED TO DEFEND THE DAVIS-BACON ACT

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Blunt (R-MO) | Stabenow (D-MI) |
| Capito (R-WV) | Klobuchar (D-MN) |
| Daines (R-MT) | Smith (D-MN) |
| Kennedy (R-LA) | Tester (D-MT) |
| Murkowski (R-AK) | Hassan (D-NH) |
| Portman (R-OH) | Shaheen (D-NH) |
| Rubio (R-FL) | Booker (D-NJ) |
| Sullivan (R-AK) | Menendez (D-NJ) |
| Kelly (D-AZ) | Heinrich (D-NM) |
| Sinema (D-AZ) | Lujan (D-NM) |
| Feinstein (D-CA) | Cortez Masto (D-NV) |
| Padilla (D-CA) | Rosen (D-NV) |
| Bennett (D-CO) | Gillibrand |
| Hickenlooper (D-CO) | Schumer |
| Blumenthal (D-CT) | Brown (D-OH) |
| Murphy (D-CT) | Merkley (D-OR) |
| Carper (D-DE) | Wyden (D-OR) |
| Coons (D-DE) | Casey (D-PA) |
| Ossoff (D-GA) | Reed (D-RI) |
| Warnock (D-GA) | Whitehouse (D-RI) |
| Hirono (D-HI) | Kaine (D-VA) |
| Schatz (D-HI) | Warner (D-VA) |
| Duckworth (D-IL) | Leahy (D-VT) |
| Durbin (D-IL) | Cantwell (D-WA) |
| Markey (D-MA) | Murray (D-WA) |
| Warren (D-MA) | Baldwin (D-WI) |
| Cardin (D-MD) | Manchin (D-WV) |
| Van Hollen (D-MD) | King (I-ME) |
| Peters (D-MI) | Sanders (I-VT) |

Bipartisan Efforts Salvaged the Davis-Bacon Act

For 90 years, the Davis-Bacon Act, named after U.S. Senator James Davis and Congressman Robert Bacon, has ensured that when our tax dollars are spent on construction projects, the contractors who bid on them pay the local area wage rate (prevailing wage) to workers. This is the minimum wage paid to a worker on taxpayer-funded, public works construction jobs in a particular area. This act makes it harder for low-wage employers to win bids while benefitting contractors who hire highly trained carpenters who do not want to drive down the standard of living.

This year, there was an attempt to repeal Davis-Bacon via an amendment made on a package of bills designed to invest in U.S. business competitiveness with China. The legislation was the \$52 billion Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act. The vote struck down the amendment intended to remove the bill's prevailing wage. This was the first major floor vote on Davis-Bacon in over a decade. A bipartisan group of 58 senators rejected the amendment, protected prevailing wage, and ensured workers receive fair pay for their work on these projects.

When carpenters vote, politicians listen, and many staff and members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters successfully worked to preserve the prevailing wage threatened in this amendment.

WHERE OUR U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS STAND ON DAVIS-BACON

AGAINST

- Rep. Armstrong (R-ND)
- Rep. Johnson (R-SD)
- Rep. Smith (R-NE)
- Rep. Hinson (R-IA)
- Rep. Miller-Meeke (R-IA)
- Rep. Fitzgerald (R-WI)
- Rep. Grothman (R-WI)
- Rep. Tiffany (R-WI)
- Rep. Hagedorn (R-MN)
- Rep. Fischbach (R-MN)

PRO

- Rep. Bacon (R-NE)
- Rep. Fortenberry (R-NE)
- Rep. Axne (D-IA)
- Rep. Feenstra (R-IA)
- Rep. Steil (R-WI)
- Rep. Pocan (D-WI)
- Rep. Kind (D-WI)
- Rep. Moore (D-WI)
- Rep. Gallagher (R-WI)
- Rep. Craig (D-MN)
- Rep. Phillips (D-MN)
- Rep. McCollum (D-MN)
- Rep. Omar (D-MN)
- Rep. Emmer (R-MN)
- Rep. Stauber (R-MN)

U.S. House Davis-Bacon Support

Support for Davis-Bacon prevailing wage is a cornerstone issue for earning an endorsement from our Regional Council. We routinely educate elected officials and candidates about the need to uphold Davis-Bacon prevailing wage. Their support equates to voting for good jobs and fair pay for the work performed on the job. Preserving Davis-Bacon prevailing wage helps to keep the training and safety standards high on public works projects. If they oppose Davis-Bacon, they are helping to drive wages down in the areas they represent. It is that simple.

Your Regional Council endorses politicians who support Davis-Bacon and a bigger paycheck for our members. To the left is a list of House members from throughout the states in our Regional Council and where they stand on this important issue. Their position was derived from endorsement questionnaires, committee votes and publicly voicing their commitment.

Congressional Scorecard

Our scorecard looks at the highest profile infrastructure jobs, labor standards, and industry-related issues that Congress has recently voted on including the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage, the bipartisan infrastructure bill, Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and the National Apprenticeship Act. These scores are based on votes, public statements and political questionnaires.

As a result of the way the U.S. House and Senate work through legislative proposals, there are less and less individual bills and votes today than there has historically been in Congress. Many bills pass in the House and do not ever get considered by the Senate. Both the PRO-Act and apprenticeship votes have been passed in the House but not considered by the Senate.

Davis-Bacon

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage votes occur in committee and on the floor of the U.S. House and Senate. We ask every candidate running for office to support our wages and benefits by supporting the Davis-Bacon Act.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure bill was not voted on in the U.S. House prior to publication deadline. It was put together by a bipartisan panel of House and Senate members. These dollars will build out our highways, bridges, transit, airports, ports, and clean water projects around the country and create jobs for members.

PRO Act

The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act is the most important piece of labor legislation in decades. It seeks to empower workers by removing barriers to organizing a union in their workplace. It will also repeal "right-to-work" laws that lead to lower wages, fewer benefits, and more dangerous workplaces.

National Apprenticeship Act

The National Apprenticeship Act would invest \$3.5 billion over five years to expand apprenticeships across the country. The bill focuses primarily on registered apprenticeships, which are programs authorized by the Department of Labor or a state apprenticeship agency as meeting certain qualifications.

2021	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure	PRO-Act	Apprenticeship
Rep. Bryan Steil	WI ✓		✗	✓
Rep. Mark Pocan	WI ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✓	✓
Rep. Ron Kind	WI ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✓	✓
Rep. Gwen Moore	WI ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✓	✓
Rep. Scott Fitzgerald	WI ✗	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✗	✗
Rep. Glenn Grothman	WI ✗	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✗	✗
Rep. Thomas Tiffany	WI ✗	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✗	✗

2021	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure	PRO-Act	Apprenticeship
Rep. Mike Gallagher	WI ✓		✗	✗
Rep. Jim Hagedorn	MN ✗	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✗	✗
Rep. Angie Craig	MN ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✓	✓
Rep. Dean Phillips	MN ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✓	✓
Rep. Betty McCollum	MN ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✓	✓
Rep. Ilhan Omar	MN ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✓	✓
Rep. Tom Emmer	MN ✓	JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE	✗	✓

2021	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure	PRO-Act	Apprenticeship
Rep. Michelle Fischbach	MN ✗		✗	✗
Rep. Pete Stauber	MN ✓		✗	✓
Rep. Ashley Hinson	IA ✗		✗	✗
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meek	IA ✗		✗	✗
Rep. Cindy Axne	IA ✓		✓	✓
Rep. Randy Feenstra	IA ✓		✗	✗
Rep. Jeff Fortenberry	NE ✓		✗	✓
Rep. Don Bacon	NE ✓		✗	✓
Rep. Adrian Smith	NE ✗		✗	✗
Rep. Dusty Johnson	SD ✗		✗	✗
Rep. Kelly Armstrong	ND ✗		✗	✗

JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE

2021	Davis-Bacon	Infrastructure	PRO-Act	Apprenticeship
Sen. Tammy Baldwin	WI ✓	✓	✓	
Sen. Ron Johnson	WI ✗	✗	✗	
Sen. Amy Klobuchar	MN ✓	✓	✓	
Sen. Tina Smith	MN ✓	✓	✓	
Sen. Chuck Grassley	IA ✗	✗	✓	
Sen. Joni Ernst	IA ✗	✗	✗	
Sen. Deb Fischer	NE ✓	✓	✓	
Sen. Ben Sasse	NE ✗	✗	✗	
Sen. John Thune	SD ✗	✗	✗	
Rep. Mike Rounds	SD ✗	✗	✗	
Sen. John Hoeven	ND ✗	✗	✓	
Sen. Kevin Cramer	ND ✗	✗	✓	

JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE

JOB INCOMPLETE - NO VOTE



NCSRCC Business Representative Kevin Hennessey of Local 1143 in La Crosse, WI (pictured below) greeted DOL Secretary Marty Walsh at Dairyland Power Cooperative in La Crosse, WI. The meeting covered Dairyland's partnership with skilled union labor and the benefits of the #AmericanJobsPlan which will invest in 21st century infrastructure.

How Presidents Effect Your Pocket

The United States has had 46 presidents since George Washington's election in 1789. While President Washington was not affiliated with any political party, and even opposed partisanship, political differences over 200 years ago led to rivalries and the founding of the first political party, the Federalist Party. As of today, we have had 17 Democratic and 19 Republican Presidents. We must work towards our agenda regardless of who is in office. If history tells us anything, we will continue to see a mixture of Democrat and Republican control. Carpenter economics crosses party lines, and we will evaluate each political party based upon their accomplishments and failures related to job security, benefits and wages of the working people.

With less than a year into his presidency, what has the Joe Biden administration done for carpenter economics? You do not have to go far to see some of the immediate changes he implemented that benefitted labor. Nearly two weeks prior to the inauguration,

1

President-elect Biden selected Marty Walsh as his nominee for secretary of

labor. Walsh is the first union member in nearly 50 years to be appointed to the position as leader of the Department of Labor, which includes the Wage and Hour Division, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. Walsh is a member of Laborer's Local 223 and former leader of the Boston Metropolitan District Building Trades.

On January 20th, **President Biden signed an executive order revoking the permit for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline in opposition to many of the building trades unions.** Biden's order revoked the permit President Trump granted on March 29, 2019. The Keystone XL pipeline is an international project with years of planning and work completed. The 875-mile pipeline would have carried a heavy crude oil mixture from Western Canada to Steele City, Neb., where it would connect with another leg stretching to Gulf Coast refineries. Without the U.S. government's support, it is essentially halted.

HAS THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTED CARPENTER ECONOMICS?

- 1 Selecting Marty Walsh as Secretary of Labor - the first union member to be appointed in nearly 50 years.
- 2 Revoking the permit for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline in opposition to many trade unions.
- 3 Creating a White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment promoting labor organizing.
- 4 Replacing the head of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) with Peter Ohr.
- 5 Ordering the DOL to issue a regulation that clarifies workers' rights to unemployment.
- 6 Selecting Jessica Looman as the deputy administrator for the DOL's Wage and Hour Division.
- 7 Selecting James Fredrick, a long time steelworker, to lead the DOL's OSHA division.
- 8 Publicly maintaining support for the PRO Act which would boost Carpenter Economics.

An 11-volume State Department report on the Keystone XL pipeline found that it would not significantly contribute to carbon pollution. Critics say the project threatens Alberta's rivers and forests resulting in Biden citing concerns over the environment as the basis for revoking the permit.

TC Energy Corp., the Canadian company that owns the Keystone XL pipeline along with the Alberta government, claims more than 1,000 people are out of work, thousands of jobs and billions of dollars wasted. Building trades unions and the Carpenters continue to advocate for this project and the jobs it supports.

In April, **President Biden created a White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment focusing on promoting labor organizing.** Following decades of declining membership in labor unions, this task force will issue recommendations on how the government can use existing authority to help workers join labor unions and bargain collectively. It will also recommend new policies that may contribute to achieving those goals. The task force will be led by Vice President Kamala Harris and includes other key cabinet officials and White House advisers.

President Biden also replaced Peter Robb as head of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) with Peter Ohr. Robb was a key player in helping to bust the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization union and continued his anti-labor track as head of the NLRB. He tried to make changes that would end neutrality agreements, which are agreements between an employer and a union where the employer agrees not to oppose the union's organizing efforts within their company. Neutrality agreements often include an employer's promise to maintain silence during union organizing efforts. Upon taking office, Ohr announced that the NLRB will no longer pursue cases that challenge a company's right to stay neutral during a union election. He also rolled

back two directives aimed at making it easier to prosecute labor union's negligent behavior which was previously treated as a harmless mistake.

In an executive order, **President Biden ordered the Department of Labor to issue a regulation that clarifies workers have a federally guaranteed right to refuse employment that puts their health in danger and still qualify for unemployment insurance.** When unscrupulous contractors fail to provide safe working conditions that are at the forefront of the Carpenters training and prioritized by signatory contractors, workers will have a safety net that protects them from having to decide whether to risk their lives or provide for themselves and their families.

Minnesota's Jessica Looman was selected as the deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division. In part, her division will be responsible for investigating cases of wage theft. Looman is the former Executive Director of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council and served as general counsel for the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota. She also previously worked as the deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.



Peter Ohr, head of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)

President Biden selected James Fredrick, long time Steelworker employee, to lead the Department of Labor's OSHA division. Fredrick spent 25 years working in the United Steelworker's health, safety and environment department. In 2019, Fredrick left the Steelworkers but continued to advise companies on safety and compliance as a safety consultant. He will be a strong safety advocate.

Despite a difficult hurdle in the U.S. Senate, **President Biden has publicly maintained his support for the PRO Act.** The Pro Act would provide a giant boost to carpenter economics by creating penalties for employers who try to illegally bust unions, strengthening protections for workers who are wrongly fired as part of organizing campaigns and overriding anti-union "right-to-work" laws in most states making it easier for new unions to secure their first contracts. While the PRO Act has been reintroduced in Congress, continued support by Biden will be key to ensuring labor earns as many votes as possible on the bill.

Many of President Biden's initial accomplishments will positively impact carpenter economics. However, members will still have strong feelings about President Biden over social issues that encompass their beliefs. Yet, without our livelihoods, nearly all social issues would take a back seat. This is not to suggest that politicians, including President Biden, should not be held accountable and evaluated for what remains on their agendas and whether any of it gets accomplished. One major item that remains on all our agendas is the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that would bring billions of dollars of work to our Regional Council for roads, bridges, airports, and other infrastructure needs. This will be a key issue used to measure political support for carpenter economics in the near future.



Gov. Evers' Building Commission Budget Creates Union Jobs

standards and a proven track record of quality performance.

In addition to new construction, the budget supports renovations and repairs to buildings. The majority of repairs and renovations are for buildings constructed decades ago in need of frequent repairs. One example is the highly publicized case from this spring when concrete slabs broke off a UW-Madison building crashing onto a public sidewalk. Engineers found that the building's remaining panels posed an immediate threat to public health, welfare and safety. Gov. Evers' budget recommendation incorporated \$2.4 billion in funding over the next two years on state building projects with the majority going to the University of Wisconsin System. This budget would increase the work hours and projects available to union general contractors and members.

The numbers speak for themselves. Gov. Evers' budgets have aggressively

Every two years, the Governor of Wisconsin introduces a Building Commission budget, which funds the construction and repairs for all state buildings including the University of Wisconsin System. The overall budget includes individual projects encompassing every corner of the state from the new UW-Platteville Sesquicentennial Hall to the UW-La Crosse field house.

For Building Commission projects, union general contractors maintain an extremely high market share under the bidding policies which require high

Concrete slabs that broke off a UW-Madison building crashing onto a public sidewalk.



“When Gov. Walker underfunded building commission budgets, it was like ignoring maintenance needed on your car. Delaying repairs worsens the problems resulting in taxpayers paying more to fix them,” stated EST John Raines. “Gov. Evers has been a strong supporter of carpenter economics, and we are fortunate to have him leading Wisconsin.”

addressed delayed maintenance caused by former Gov. Scott Walker's failure to invest in our state's infrastructure. This change in investment priorities is a result of electing Gov. Evers, in which the Carpenters played an integral role.

Building Commission funding set by Gov. Evers has created family-supporting jobs while clearing repair backlogs and modernizing our world class educational facilities. He continues to be an invaluable partner delivering results for the middle class and for union carpenters in Wisconsin.

Candidate and Campaign Bootcamp

This August, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) held its second Work Boots to Wingtips campaign and candidate training. Members met in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, to learn about how to file for office, organize a campaign, raise money, write a campaign stump speech and how to determine the number of votes necessary to win an election.



office more than once to get elected, which was a theme they heard from state legislators and local candidates alike. Elected officials also emphasized the importance that experience and messaging has to a candidate's constituents. Participants learn that any leadership role, such as running a job site or volunteering in the community, can create name recognition and trust among voters

that can impact the outcome of an election.

This training has been conducted twice by the NCSRCC political department staff and will become an annual event going forward. We have had dozens of members run for office and apply to serve on boards and commissions. From this class in Pewaukee, there are a number of members who are running in the Wisconsin spring elections and other future races.

“As an organization, we design our training curriculum for apprentices to go from an entry-level carpenter to an experienced, fourth-year professional who is ready to work in the field as a journeyman,” said Director of Government Affairs, Adam Duininck. “These same principles apply to members who have an interest in being politically active. With the right training and preparation, our members will be set up for success and ready to win.”

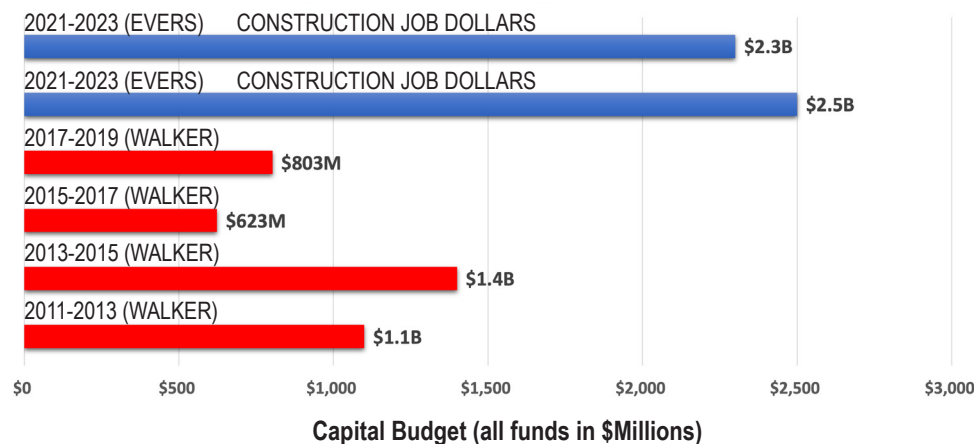
“Members who step-up make a difference,” said Executive Secretary-Treasurer John Raines. “When decisions get made that impact our work and our paycheck, we need elected officials who understand the middle class and carpenter economics casting votes and carrying legislation.”

If you or your spouse are interested in running for office, please contact your area political director about future opportunities to take the Work Boots to Wingtips training.

In addition to the training that focused on skills and tactics, participants heard from elected officials who have successfully ran for office. Most candidates must commit to run for

Pictured above: 2021 Work Boots to Wingtips Candidate Bootcamp graduates in Pewaukee, WI.

EVERS' BUDGET MEANS CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR YOU



Source: State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Capital Budget Recommendations 2011-2023



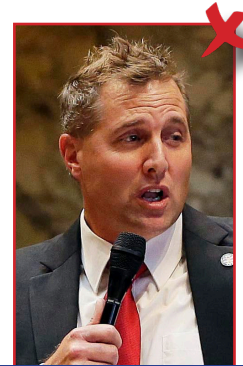
Right: Anthony B. Lease, Local 314
Left: Ryan Olson, Local 314 working on the UW-Platteville Sesquicentennial Hall with Evers construction job dollars.

Wisconsin's Ten Most Anti-Carpenter Politicians Up for Re-Election in 2022

Project labor agreements (PLAs), which are agreements between a contractor and labor unions that establish the terms and working conditions on large projects, are once again under attack in Wisconsin. Ten politicians who voted to kill public sector PLAs in Wisconsin are now lobbying for the same ban at the federal level.

We cannot allow them to continue their anti-carpenter initiatives in Washington, D.C. They intentionally misled federal politicians and political officials in a letter (*referenced on the next page*) they drafted and signed that implies PLAs are designed to discourage qualified contractors and are more costly. Despite the research contrary to their statements, these ten politicians continue to ask for your vote while intending to destroy your livelihoods.

These TEN Politicians who voted to KILL public sector PLAs in Wisconsin are now lobbying for the same ban at the federal level.



Representative Shannon Zimmerman



Representative Ron Tusler



Representative Terry Katsma



Representative Ken Skowronski



Representative Daniel Knodl



Representative Joe Sanfelippo



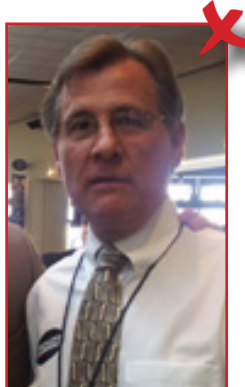
Representative Scott Allen



Representative Barbara Dittrich



Representative Michael Schraa



Representative David Murphy

Although Wisconsin has a ban on public sector PLAs, they are still allowed in the private sector. Successful private sector project examples include: the Fiserv Forum, The Couture in Milwaukee and the upcoming Nemadji Trail Energy Center in Superior. These projects have generated significant hours of work for members.

While the voting records of these anti-carpenter legislators are shameful, the good news is some Wisconsin members will have the opportunity to hold them accountable during the next election in November 2022.

ensure construction contracts are awarded only to companies that agree to recognize unions as exclusive representatives of their employees on that job; use the union hiring hall to obtain workers at the expense of their existing qualified, skilled and safe employees; follow union work rules that slow productivity; abandon innovative workforce development programs and registered apprenticeship programs they use to create a safe and productive workforce; pay into union



TRUTH PLAs benefit the local economy by increasing employment via local union hiring referrals.

In addition, when governments mandate PLAs on federal and federally assisted projects, they often needlessly increase the cost of construction, resulting in fewer infrastructure improvements and reduced construction industry job creation. Multiple studies of hundreds of taxpayer-funded school



TRUTH PLAs deliver cost savings for developers by meeting deadlines and reducing cost overruns.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Mr. Doug Hoelscher
White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20501

Sent via email to douglas.l.hoelscher@who.eop.gov

Dear Mr. Hoelscher:

We are writing today to urge the Trump administration to restore fair and open competition for construction contracts funded by federal tax dollars by repealing President Obama's Executive Order 13502¹ and reinstating President George W. Bush's Executive Orders 13202² and 13208.³ As the Trump administration considers its plan to help rebuild America's infrastructure, reversing President Obama's pro-project labor agreement policy will increase competition for taxpayer-funded construction contracts, reduce construction costs, create more construction industry jobs and result in more infrastructure improvements benefitting all Americans.

Currently, many qualified contractors and their skilled employees in Wisconsin are strongly discouraged from competing for contracts to build federal and federally assisted construction projects when they are subject to government-mandated PLAs.⁴

Although a PLA is a contract with varying terms and conditions, most contain provisions that ensure construction contracts are awarded only to companies that agree to recognize unions as the exclusive representatives of their employees on that job; use the union hiring hall to obtain workers at the expense of their existing qualified, skilled and safe employees; follow union work rules that slow productivity; abandon innovative workforce development programs and registered apprenticeship programs they use to create a safe and productive workforce; pay into union benefits and multiemployer pension plans that the company's existing employees will never benefit from unless they join a union and meet vesting requirements; and force their existing employees to pay union dues and/or join a union as a condition of employment.

Government-mandated PLAs discourage competition from qualified contractors and the over 80%

little sense considering the construction industry needs to fill more than 440,000 construction industry jobs in 2019 to meet current demand.⁶

In addition, when governments mandate PLAs on federal and federally assisted projects, they often needlessly increase the cost of construction, resulting in fewer infrastructure improvements and reduced construction industry job creation. Multiple studies of hundreds of taxpayer-funded school construction projects found that government-mandated PLAs increase the cost of construction by 12% to 18% compared to similar projects completed in a fair and open competitive marketplace that rewards innovation and productivity.⁷ For example, a 2017 study by the Beacon Hill Institute found school construction in Ohio subject to government-mandated PLAs increased construction costs by 13% on average.⁸ For these reasons, 25 states have passed laws restricting government-mandated PLAs on state, state-assisted and local construction projects, to some degree, including Wisconsin.⁹

President Obama's executive order has permitted government-mandated PLAs on billions of dollars of federally assisted projects procured by state and local governments. For example, according to a February 2019 Federal Highway Administration report, since May 2010, PLAs have been mandated by state and local governments on 418 construction projects (totaling an estimated \$10.12 billion) that received formal approval and federal assistance from the FHWA.¹⁰

If President Trump ends government-mandated PLAs on federal and federally assisted construction projects, he can drastically reduce the obstacles in procurement and construction by promoting open competition and rewarding efficiency and innovation. Restoring government neutrality in contracting will allow the employers of all Americans working in the construction industry today to fairly compete to build federal and federally assisted construction projects in their own communities funded with their own tax dollars at a price that is right for the taxpayer.

We look forward to working with you and the Trump administration on this matter. Together we continue to make progress improving America's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Chris Kapenga
State Senator
33rd Senate District

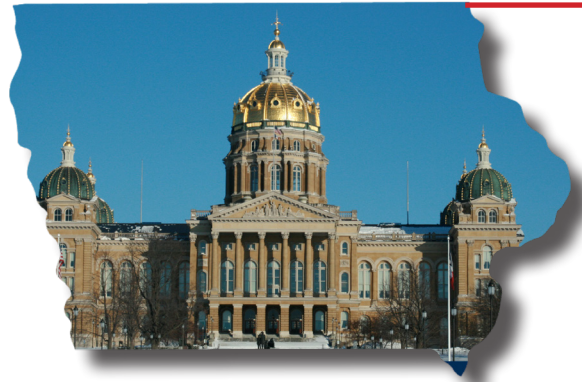
Rob Hutton
State Representative
13th Assembly District

⁶ The Construction Industry Needs to Hire an Additional 440,000 Workers in 2019, ABC Newsline, May 2, 2019, <https://www.abc.org/News/Media/Newsline/entry/16185>.

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TRUTH PLAs project owners receive the best trained, highest skilled workers ensuring efficiency and safety.



Iowa Local Governments Assure Contractor Quality

In Iowa, we focus much of our political attention on local government decision makers along with the state legislature. Local government is where most of the decisions are made regarding vertical development. They make land use, zoning and permitting decisions. Local communities and their governments are also more likely to support local workers and businesses.

The Regional Council's political staff focused their efforts on encouraging cities and counties to develop a Taxpayer Quality Assurance ordinance and corresponding questionnaire. After repeated conversations with contractors and local government officials to continue building politi-

Pictured left: General Contractor Quality Assurance Questionnaire to ensure responsible contractors receive public development contracts.

cal relationships, the Taxpayer Quality Assurance ordinance continues to be adopted in more counties and cities throughout Iowa.

The questionnaire ensures that responsible contractors are receiving public development contracts. It helps local government officials identify and hire contractors who are up-to-date on basic compliance standards including proper business registration, history of compliance with labor and safety laws and relevant insurance coverage. These ordinances have been passed in Johnson, Linn, Polk and Woodbury counties in addition to the cities of Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Sioux City.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR QUALITY ASSURANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Pursuant to Iowa Code §26.9 which requires that contracts for public improvements be awarded to the "lowest responsive, responsible bidder," and also recognizes that a governmental entity may obtain information from the lowest responsive bidder to determine bidder's responsibility relating to the bidder's experience, number of employees, and ability to finance the cost of the public improvement, and in accordance with Iowa law allowing public entities to consider factors other than price in determining who is the lowest responsible bidder; the City of Des Moines does hereby provide the following Questionnaire to the bidder to whom award of a Contract is under consideration ("Contractor") submitting bids for work on the _____ ("Project"). The fully completed Questionnaire, with attachments, shall be submitted to the City of Des Moines Engineering Department within 14 calendar days of notification to the apparent lowest bidder. Contractors who do not complete the following questionnaire may be deemed to be non-responsive or non-responsible.

- Full name of Contractor:
Address
Telephone Fax
Email
- All other names under which Contractor has operated in the past five (5) years:
- Provide Contractors' Registration Number and full names of Registration Holders as per Iowa Construction Contractor Registration requirements:
These ordinances lead to jobs for members and hire quality projects in our communities.
- Contractor Registration Expiration Date
Has Registration ever been suspended or revoked in any jurisdiction?

Omaha Promotes Registered Apprenticeships

In February 2021, following countless meetings and many conversations, the city of Omaha updated their Municipal Code Contract Provisions and passed an ordinance that included a bid incentive for contractors that utilize apprentices. Under the ordinance, the contractors who are awarded a contract will receive a five percent incentive applied towards their bid, with the total value not to exceed \$500,000. To be eligible for the incentive, contractors must be able to demonstrate their willingness to contractually commit to hiring apprentices. To receive the incentive, at least 10 percent of all labor hours must be completed by apprentices enrolled in a union apprenticeship program or a training program recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. The updated language also requires the maintenance of payroll records that can assist cities in identifying dishonest contractors. This new provision states, "all craft employees are paid via direct deposit or check and a record of payments with detailed withholdings, is retained." This change increases the opportunities for apprentices to work for honest contractors doing business with the City of Omaha on taxpayer-funded projects.



Apprentices at the Carpenters Training Institute - Omaha Campus.

Nebraska Senators Tackle Wage Theft and Tax Fraud

Carpenters advocated for and testified in support of bills authored by two leading Nebraska state senators to address wage theft and tax fraud, which are both major initiatives of the Carpenters. Senator Tony Vargas, representing Legislative District 7 (South Omaha), sponsored a bill



Senator Tony Vargas
District 7 (South Omaha)

requiring the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) to hire additional bilingual inspectors to increase compliance with the Nebraska Employee Classification Act.

Senator Matt Hansen, representing Legislative District 26 (Northeast Lincoln), sponsored wage theft legislation that requires payment of unpaid wages for violations of the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act. He also included several additional provisions in his omnibus bill in support of workers.

Sen. Vargas' bill targeted contractors who misclassified craft employees as independent contractors. The bill allowed the NDOL to use cash funds to hire additional bilingual inspectors dedicated to inspecting construction sites and meat packing facilities. The bill received bipartisan support to use \$125,000 in NDOL cash reserves to hire bilingual investigators in the Misclassification Investigation Division. In addition, he reached an agreement with the NDOL to convert an existing position within the misclassification division to become a bilingual construction investigator. From July 2019 through June 2020, Nebraska field investigators completed 765 audits. The outcome of the audits revealed 2,820 workers wrongfully classified as independent contractors. As a result, they were added to the employers' tax and wage records. These corrections resulted in an additional \$103,438.92 in unreported tax collections.

Sen. Hansen was instrumental in passing legislation that dictates an employer must pay an employee, or former employee, any wages determined by the NDOL to be owed under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act. An investigation by



the NDOL may trigger a citation to the employer. As the chairman of the Business and Labor Committee, Sen. Hansen also passed an omnibus labor bill that included multiple provisions that are major victories for working



Senator Matt Hansen
District 26 (Northeast Lincoln)

people in Nebraska. The first provision prohibits an employer from retaliating or discriminating against an employee who files a lawsuit, files a complaint or participates in an investigation under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act. A second provision allows an employee working for a company, which is not subject to the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, to file a lawsuit against their employer to recoup owed wages resulting from a NDOL violation. Finally, another provision amended the Employee Classification Act by allowing a citation to be issued to employers for misclassifying employees prior to a hearing. Citations are public, and unpaid fines prevent contractors from bidding on public projects until the fine is resolved. The omnibus labor bill passed with a 42-4 bipartisan vote and went into effect immediately.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Carpenter Economics is an annual publication designed to keep NCSRCC members updated on how politicians impact job security, wages and benefits of members. Please take a minute to tell us how we did and how we can do better by taking this short Carpenter Economics survey available at ncsrcc.org/cesurvey or using the QR code provided.



North Dakota Invests In Bonding and Energy

The North Dakota legislature rarely passes a bonding bill. However, last spring, the legislature and the governor approved a \$680 million bonding bill that included over \$400 million for the Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion project. This large bonding bill should lead to job opportunities and set a precedent for passing future bonding bills. The Carpenters strongly supported this bonding bill as well as career and technical education policy bills while working with industry partners on energy legislation relating to power plant jobs.

The legislature also made significant investments in energy research and development on carbon capture and sequestration, or the capturing of carbon dioxide before it enters the atmosphere, transporting and storing it long-term. North Dakota's economy depends on coal, gas, oil and other power sources. With this year's sale of the Coal Creek Station, North Dakota's largest and most efficient power plant, to Rainbow Energy Center along with other investments made by the legislature, we will have substantial work opportunities in the future.

