

ROLLBACK OF WORKERS' RIGHTS AT STAKE IN NOVEMBER

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



Teamster members and other workers are facing a significant political challenge in this election year. Big business and corporate apologists are continuing their push to strip unions of their ability to collectively bargain by pushing so-called right-to-work (RTW) legislation. And if they are successful, more

workers could lose their rights on the job.

Such efforts have already been successful in West Virginia, where earlier this year the Legislature overrode the veto of the governor to implement RTW and roll back the state's prevailing wage law. While supporters there promised more jobs will result from the move, history shows us that lower pay for residents will be the likely result. And that's not something West Virginians, or anyone else, needs.

But what happens if this country's voters decide to elect candidates in November who don't represent workers' values? Given the current make-up of Congress and many state legislatures, it is definitely possible that RTW could become a reality in more states or even nationwide. And that would be devastating for millions of families.

Those living in RTW states have a higher poverty rate than those in ones that support collective bargaining. In fact, nine of the 10 highest poverty states are RTW. That, in part, is attributable to lower salaries and benefits. Those with no rights at work make almost \$1,500 a year less. They are also less likely to receive employer-based health insurance or pensions.

Teamsters must help lead the charge to defeat efforts to spread anti-worker legislation. RTW is a ruse. Now pro-worker forces need to spread that message so everyday Americans understand what is at stake on Election Day.



James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Bubba Davis, Division Director

POSITIVE FORECAST FOR PIPELINE WORK

Crude Oil, Gas Projects Abound From Coast to Coast



The fourth-annual Pipeline Stewards School was held in February. The program provides an overview of the state of the pipeline construction industry in addition to sessions on safety, the pipeline training fund, the pipeline pension fund and other related topics.

"We expect that 2016 will mean full employment for our pipeline construction workers," said David LaBorde, director of the pipeline construction division within the Building Material and Construction Trade Division. "This is a direct result of the strong training we have conducted over the past year and which we plan to continue."

LaBorde reviewed the state of the pipeline construction projects occurring across the country, in particular the Dakota Access pipeline project (DAPL), which he compared to the scope of the Keystone XL project. At nearly 1,180 miles, the pipe is beginning to be racked for the crude oil pipeline coming out of the Bakken fields in North Dakota.

"Over 1,000 members are estimated to be employed on this project alone," LaBorde said.

Tasked with moving, via truck, the men and women, materials and equipment for these projects, it's anticipated that there will be nine solid months of heavy construction, but overall it's a 15-18 month project. Members from Local 346, 554 and 916 will be participating.

The Sabal Trail project, in Alabama, Georgia and Florida, is a natural gas line of about 515 miles. "The source of the natural gas is the Marcellas shale project and the line is being built in order to supply communities in the states that are growing and therefore requiring access to gas in their homes and businesses," LaBorde said.

The Sabal Trail and DAPL projects are two of the largest projects in process this year, but there are many hundreds of other small projects in play from coast to coast. "It's a good time to be in the pipeline industry and to be a Teamster," LaBorde said.

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A MESSAGE FROM DIVISION
DIRECTOR BUBBA DAVIS

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS WITH THE MUD

If you've attended any of our annual meetings over the past four years, you've heard me say, "Construction begins and ends with Redi-mix." I firmly believe that if you have Redi-mix on construction projects and project labor agreements (PLAs) that you have the upper hand on all other work being within the jurisdiction of the Teamsters.



In most PLAs, Redi-mix is excluded unless the source of the products (i.e. batch plant) is located on the site of work and is totally dedicated to the project. The Department of Labor dictates that rule and defines Redi-mix delivery as "supply." That's why we struggle every day to claim what should be our work on these projects.

We are committed to growing our membership and we have begun an aggressive agenda for improving the market share for Teamster-represented construction jobs all over the Western Region. Local unions from all over the country recently met at Local 14 in Las Vegas to develop a strategy to welcome more construction members into the Teamsters Union so that they may benefit from the strong contracts and representation we provide.

Stay tuned to Teamster.org for updates on this campaign.



Campaigns Show Bipartisan Backing for Infrastructure

Support for infrastructure investment is growing on both sides of the political aisle. Presidential candidates are talking about it. The media shows images of our deteriorating roads, railways and water systems. Something needs to be done.

Luckily, the Teamsters unveiled its "Let's Get America Working" platform last year that provides a detailed roadmap for how this nation should prioritize such investment. It notes that maintaining, rebuilding and repairing our transportation, energy and water networks benefit workers by creating good-paying construction jobs that often pay prevailing wages. At the same time, such work also helps the economy by improving systems needed by businesses nationwide.

There are many infrastructure problems that need to be addressed. They include:

- More than 59,000 structurally deficient bridges nationwide, crossed by 215 million vehicles each day, according to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association;
- 54 percent of urban roads in substandard or out-of-date condition, according to "TRIP," a national transportation research group;
- Rail infrastructure supporting an increased volume of oil tanker cars, which have increased from 9,500 in 2008 to more than 400,000 in 2013, according to the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, but without sufficient structural improvements to the rail system;
- Upgrading energy delivery infrastructure like pipelines and transmission lines; and
- Replacing pipes in aging water systems to avoid lead contamination like what's happening in Flint, Mich.

Rebuilding, repairing and reinvestment doesn't just need to be about transportation and energy projects. It can be about rebuilding and repairing the trust between government and workers by reinvesting in the people that have and can continue to make this country great. Better pay will lead to more spending and improve our quality of life. That way we all win.



WORKER SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

Training Offered by Safety and Health Department

During the recent Fourth Annual Business Agent and Officers meeting which took place the day after the Pipeline Stewards School, Charmaine Woolard, from the Teamsters Safety and Health Department, presented a comprehensive explanation of the types of training available to members in the construction industry. The Teamsters Safety and Health Department coordinates all safety training courses as the recipient of various grants from the Department of Transportation, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Woolard outlined how the training programs all have three major goals: increase worker and community safety; protect worksites and surrounding communities; and protect vital transportation infrastructure with respect to the remediation of hazardous waste sites and the transportation of hazardous wastes and hazardous materials.

A past participant of one of the hazardous materials classes, Pete Townsend, a Redi-mix driver from Local 853, said, "I think the key components of this course is that I now have the knowledge about chemical exposure that occurs every day on the job. This course has helped me become aware of the potential dangers of these chemicals and what resources there are to find out about them."

The courses offered are:

- 40-Hour Initial Hazardous Waste Worker Course;
- 8-Hour Hazardous Waste Worker Course;
- 10-Hour OSHA Construction Outreach Course;
- 8-Hour Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Awareness Course;
- 80-Hour NCCCO (National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators) Crane Operator Course;
- 8-Hour Load Securement Course; and
- 8-Hour Forklift Safety Course.

More information can be obtained by the Safety and Health Department's website at: www.teamsterworker-trainingprogram.org or by calling (202) 624-6963.

"We want every member who works in the construction industry to have the best information about workplace safety so that they can stay on the job, perform well and commit to a full-time work schedule," said LaMont Byrd, Director of the Safety and Health Department.