



United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC)

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Carpenters and Allies Protest Across U.S. and Canada Against Costly Epidemic of Construction Industry Tax Fraud

Washington, D.C. – Regional councils affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) held over 100 events in the U.S. and Canada April 13 – 15, protesting against the costly epidemic of construction industry tax fraud.

“But this isn’t just a problem for the construction industry,” said Frank Spencer, General Vice President of the UBC. “We’re exposing the growing problem of fraud in our industry because it impacts everyone.”

The UBC’s best estimate, based on studies done at the state level, is that the underground economy (which includes the amount of wages paid to workers off the books) in the construction industry amounts to some \$148 billion in the U.S. The lost state and federal income and employment taxes add up to \$2.6 billion. According to Statistics Canada, the residential construction industry is the largest contributor to the underground economy there, accounting for just over a quarter of the total, or \$13.7 billion.

“During our Tax Fraud Days of Action, thousands of carpenters were joined by allies and elected officials,” said Spencer. “We all spoke in a unified voice to declare that basic employment and tax laws need to be enforced for the welfare of workers, responsible employers and all taxpayers.”

“I’m sure most of us would prefer to see missing tax revenues properly collected and put to work building better roads, bridges and schools,” Spencer said. “Most of us would like to see our veterans better cared for, too, and Medicare and Social Security funding made more secure. But rampant cheating in the construction industry makes all of that harder to do.”

Spencer urged the public, policymakers and the media to learn more about widespread tax and insurance fraud and wage theft in the construction industry at a special UBC website, StandingUpToTaxFraud.net

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters represents over 500,000 members and strives to build a strong construction industry with contractors across the United States and Canada.

Some of the highlights:



Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers signed an executive order creating a joint enforcement task force on payroll fraud and worker misclassification.



Canada Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Member of Parliament Deborah Schulte met with UBC District Vice President Jason Rowe.



Hawaii Governor Ige presents a proclamation declaring April 15 Tax Fraud Awareness Day.



Carpenters in New York City were joined by New York Attorney General Letitia James and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr., as well as district attorneys Darcel Clark of the Bronx, Eric Gonzalez of Brooklyn, Michael McMahon of Richmond County, Madeline Singas of Nassau County, Tim Sini of Suffolk County and Deputy Commissioner for Worker Protection Jim Rogers.



Carpenters rallying against tax fraud at the state capitol in Harrisburg were joined by Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro and several state representatives.



Carpenters in Baltimore were addressed by state Attorney General Brian Frosh.



Carpenters stand up to tax fraud at the Canada Revenue Agency.



California State Representative Lorena Gonzalez speaks at a carpenters Orange County, CA facility.

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