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Wisconsin Laborers' Statement on Governor Evers' Executive Order on Worker Misclassification

DeForest, WI – Today the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council announced their support of Governor Evers signing of Executive Order #20, which will bolster the State of Wisconsin's ability to prevent employers from misclassifying workers.

"Worker misclassification cheats workers, businesses, and Wisconsin's taxpayers, and we applaud Governor Evers signing this executive order to take action against employers who are circumventing the law to take an unlawful competitive advantage against employers who are playing by the rules," said John Schmitt, President/Business Manager of the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council.

"Worker misclassification results in workers being treated as independent contractors, resulting in them not receiving fair wages, benefits, and proper legal protections."

"Companies that play by the rules are undercut by competing companies who submit lower bids on public projects, resulting in lost work for workers who rely on family-supporting wages and benefits."

Taxpayers are left on the hook to pay for a variety of hidden costs on public projects such as health care coverage through the state's BadgerCare program by these cheating contractors who are not offering proper health benefits, and the State of Wisconsin is losing out on unemployment insurance payments.

"Governor Evers' action today will protect Laborers and other construction workers and we thank him for taking this important action."

The Wisconsin Laborers' District Council is an affiliation of five Laborer local unions, representing nearly 9,000 construction craft laborers throughout Wisconsin. The Laborers are the most diverse trade in the construction industry servicing employers in transportation infrastructure, building, sewer and water, utility distribution, demolition, asbestos removal and related sectors.

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