



Ohio Construction Coalition “News Fax-Blaster” August 2005

To: All OCC Partners

OCC readies Prevailing Wage informational packet for state legislators – a rebuttal to earlier ABC flier – to show lawmakers need for Prevailing Wage

The OCC has put together a handout it will distribute to Ohio State legislators in Columbus that outlines the case for preserving Prevailing Wage laws. Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 business manager Reggie Hohenberger and organizer Al Adams, and Northwest Ohio Building Trades Council business manager Mike Haupricht and director of special projects Jack Wilson were instrumental in gathering and organizing the data.

The handout was crafted to refute Prevailing Wage claims in a flier distributed to legislators by ABC – which the OCC handout refers to as “The Big Lie.”

The OCC handout addresses the history of Prevailing Wage and the catastrophic consequences of its repeal. It supports these statements with facts about failed Ohio school construction projects, which are exempt from Prevailing Wage laws; data on poor safety in the absence of Prevailing Wage; plummeting wages and benefits in cases where Prevailing Wages were not required; and figures on rising costs, economic damages and job losses in places where Prevailing Wage laws were rescinded.

Distribution of the handout, which will be accompanied by a DVD with two WBNS TV-10 (Columbus) reports and several statewide newspaper clips on poor school construction, is planned for late August. OCC legal counsel Matt Szollosi and OCC communications firm BMA Media Group edited the final version of the handout.

OCC continues to push research, media inquiries of school construction

In an effort to keep pressure on the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) to change the manner in which it approves contracts – one of the OCC’s primary goals – OCC representatives continue to investigate poor school construction reports and take them to the news media.

Most recently, the OCC and BMA Media Group are working with the Dayton Daily News on an investigation into school construction problems in that area. Also, OCC representatives – after testifying on July 28 before the OSFC about fraudulent activity by GM Mechanical, an OSFC contractor – are working with WBNS TV-10 (Columbus) on a report specifically on GM Mechanical and its faulty work on Ohio school projects and use of unqualified workers.

To report school construction problems in your area, contact, Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255.

As the Ohio Construction Coalition works to make a substantial difference in the state’s construction industry, the OCC has sent this “News Fax-Blaster” to you to help keep you informed and involved. Please submit information for and questions about News Fax-Blasters to Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group, the OCC’s communications firm, at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255.