

INDIANA/KENTUCKY/OHIO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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Dear Chairman Merrin and Committee Members;

My name is Lee Daher and I'm am the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters Political Lead for Ohio. Our council represents 35,000 members across three states. We represent the Carpenters, Floor Layers, Piledrivers and Millwrights. In Ohio, we have four apprenticeship training facilities where our apprentices attend an accredited, four-year apprenticeship program in their respective trade and all of our programs have the industrial credential from the state of Ohio. We currently have 16,000 journeypersons and apprentices in Ohio participating in journey-level upgrade classes or working towards the completion of their apprenticeship program.

The IKORCC and our training facilities are all privately funded through our collective bargaining agreements. There is no out-of-pocket cost to our members and we accept no state funding. This investment provides a well-trained workforce that builds bridges, schools, businesses, hospitals and manufacturing sites with the quality and safety Ohioans deserve.

The practice of worker misclassification/1099 abuse effects every tax paying Ohioan. I have personally witnessed this abuse take place on jobsites and have seen the impact Studies have shown the staggering loss of tax revenue at all levels including Federal, state, and local municipalities. We are talking about hundreds of millions of dollars that could be used to pave roads, hire more first responders, and to hire more teachers.

Not only are some of these so called contractors under cutting the local workforces they are using unsafe work practices along the way and putting the burden of the potential injuries on me and you, John Q taxpayers.

I would like to personally thank Representatives Al Cutrona and Jay Edwards for introducing House Bill 482. The formation of a Tax Fraud Commission will shed light on just how devastating misclassification is in the state of Ohio. With the hope of a sensible solution on behalf of all good contractors and taxpaying Ohioans, I look forward to the passage of this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Daher".

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