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Union of Workers Who Build America Says to New Congress: “Listen to Those Who Elected You”

Laborers Ask Legislators to Fight for Strong Pensions, Health Care, the Freedom to Join a Union and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Washington, DC (January 4, 2007) – The Laborers' International Union – the largest, fastest growing and most progressive construction union in North America – on Thursday welcomed newly arriving members of Congress and called on them to join the fight on issues that matter most to working people.

“Millions of construction laborers – who work hard every day to build this country – helped elect the new Congress,” Laborers' Union General President Terence M. O'Sullivan said. “The first 100 hours of Congress will set a tone, but the next two years will show how much Congress has changed. We say, ‘Listen to those who elected you.’ ”

Members of the Laborers' Union have embarked on an aggressive political and legislative program. Last fall, thousands of rank-and-file members volunteered to elect pro-worker candidates.

The effort continues with an internal issues education effort for both members and policy-makers. On Thursday, the union welcomed the new Congressional leadership with a full page ad in Roll Call calling for Congress to fight together with working people for:

- Retirement security
- Good jobs
- Accessible health care
- Strong enforcement of family-supporting laws such as Davis-Bacon
- The freedom to join a union
- Comprehensive immigration reform

Also on Thursday, thousands of Laborers were contacting their members of Congress, urging them to act swiftly and fairly to increase the federal minimum wage, noting that by lunchtime in America, the typical CEO earns more than a minimum-wage earner does in an entire year.

“We have a golden opportunity to strengthen the American Dream and we can't lose it,” O'Sullivan said. “Working people are not going to be satisfied with anything less.”

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The Laborers' International Union represents 700,000 men and women who go to work everyday building America through construction and public service.