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Statement on New Union Membership Numbers

More Working Men and Women in the Construction Industry Find Union Membership Equals Better Pay

Washington, D.C. (January 25, 2008) – Terence M. O’Sullivan, General President of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, made the following statement on the 2007 union membership numbers released today by the U.S. Department of Labor:

These numbers represent good news for the working men and women of the construction industry.

In the construction industry, there were 96,000 more working men and women in unions in 2007 compared with 2006. That represents an increase from 13% of the construction industry in to 13.9%.

One reason for growth is simple – construction workers join unions for better pay and better benefits. According to the Department of Labor, in 2007 union members in the construction industry earned \$376 more per week than non-union construction workers – up from \$359 more per week in 2006.

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The half-million members of LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of 10 million workers who produce 5 percent of the U.S. economic output.