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## **Laborers' Union Calls on Congress to Raise Minimum Wage Without More Breaks for the Wealthy**

**Washington, D.C. (January 10, 2007)** -- The Laborers' International Union Wednesday applauded the likely passage of a minimum wage increase in the U.S. House, and urged Congress to keep the increase free of tax breaks or other giveaways for the wealthy.

“America’s lowest paid workers have not had a raise in nine years, while CEO salaries have risen 400 percent and trillions in tax breaks have been given to the wealthy,” Laborers’ General President Terence M. O’Sullivan said. “Congress should not hold hostage a \$2.10-an-hour increase for those who need it most to breaks for the rich or wealthy corporations. It’s a ‘10-for me, 1-for-you’ mentality that is dividing our country.”

Members of the union have been aggressively lobbying Congress to pass a fair minimum-wage increase through emails and telephone calls to their representatives.

Most of the 700,000 members of the Laborers’ Union, who work predominantly in construction, earn more than the minimum wage. But for the millions of hard-working construction laborers without a union – tens of thousands of whom earn the minimum wage or slightly more – an increase can help pay for basic necessities for themselves and their families.

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