

Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



*Affiliated with the
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America*



For Immediate Release

Carpenters from North Pole, AK to Portland, OR Will Stand Up to Tax Fraud on April 15th
Seattle, WA • Olympia, WA • Portland, OR • Boise, ID • Anchorage, AK

Union Carpenters and their allies in are preparing for Days of Action events to bring attention to tax fraud in the construction industry. The Carpenters union will hold 5 events in 4 states to highlight this crisis. Construction industry tax fraud is costing U.S. taxpayers at least \$2.6 billion a year, according to an estimate done for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC). Some 1.2 million construction workers are paid off the books per year, while another 300,000 are called independent contractors when they are really employees.

Tax fraud comes when workers are paid off the books by shady subcontractors and labor brokers, who are hired by contractors to underbid law-abiding businesses. Fraud happens on all types of projects, including taxpayer-funded projects—which means we all lose. Rampant cheating in the construction industry makes it difficult to repair roads, bridges and schools, care for veterans and shore up Medicare and Social Security.

“The taxpayers are getting a raw deal,” said PNWRCC principal officer Evelyn Shapiro “Tax fraud in the construction industry has gone on for too long. This hurts legitimate contractors, workers and their families. But just as important, we can’t improve our roads and bridges or build new schools if our hard-earned tax dollars are drained away because of corrupt business practices. It’s a question of fairness.”

Details are available at StandingUpToTaxFraud.net, where you can watch the losses mount and learn about all events throughout the United States.

“We must prevent tax fraud and ensure a level playing in every industry, including construction,” said Bob Ferguson-Washington State Attorney General. “As long as I’m Attorney General, those who commit tax fraud in order to underbid law-abiding businesses will be held accountable.”

“The role of the State Auditor is to audit local and state government. Governments can’t do business with contractors who don’t pay the appropriate taxes, and in truth, no one should. Fraud of any kind hurts everyone who follows the rules – in public or private business,” said Washington state Auditor Pat McCarthy.

Seattle - Noon. Carpenters union, community organizations and representatives of Attorney General Ferguson’s office will rally at noon on the Corner of 3rd and Union where many last minute tax filers will be paying their taxes at a nearby post office.

Olympia - 10:00 AM. The Carpenters will join Attorney General Bob Ferguson and State Auditor Pat McCarthy to announce how the state is currently fighting back and what can be done in the future.

Portland - Noon. Carpenters union, and community organizations will rally at noon at Director Park followed by hand billing at local Post Offices where many last minute tax filers will be paying their taxes.

Boise- 4:00 PM. Hand billing at local Post Offices where many last minute tax filers will be paying their taxes.

Anchorage - 4:00 PM. Hand billing at local Post Offices where many last minute tax filers will be paying their taxes.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters represents over 24,000 carpenters throughout the Northwest, including 13,000 in Washington state alone. The Council advocates for the fair treatment of all workers, and has fought to level the playing field in the construction industry by fighting against tax fraud and criminal contractors.

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