

GARY PERINAR
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

JEFFREY ISAACSON
President



12 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2796

312-787-3076 • Fax: 312-951-1540
www.carpentersunion.org

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Contact: Phil Davidson
pdavidson@carpentersunion.org

Mid-America Carpenters Union Helps Facilitate \$500,000 Payout to Illinois Workers Cheated Out of Fair Wages

Union behind major win for Illinois workers and taxpayers.

CHICAGO — The Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council (MACRC) today announced a major victory in the fight against wage theft and tax fraud in the building trades. Acting on information provided by the MACRC, the Illinois Department of Labor is requiring a bulk storage contractor to pay nearly \$500,000 back to its workers for failing to meet state-certified prevailing wage and benefit rates.

The case involves Beecher-based Bulk Storage, Inc. which specializes in bulk storage structures for salt, sand, and fertilizer. The Illinois Department of Labor (DOL) reached a settlement with Bulk Storage ordering the company to provide back pay to their employees after the MACRC filed charges alleging multiple violations of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act. The charges stem from Bulk Storage projects funded with taxpayer dollars.

Under DOL's terms, Bulk Storage is forced to pay its workers an additional \$483,828, plus \$85,000 in penalties to the DOL.

“Wage theft and the loss of tax revenue hurts us all,” said MACRC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Gary Perinar. “It exploits workers, many of whom are unaware of their right to receive fair wages and benefits to support themselves and their families. It puts signatory union contractors at a disadvantage against unscrupulous contractors who lowball bids through fraudulent practices. And it cheats communities out of much-needed tax dollars to fund new projects and public services. Thanks to our research team for uncovering these injustices against working families and to the Department of Labor for enforcing the law.”

The Prevailing Wage Act requires contractors and subcontractors to pay laborers, workers and mechanics employed on PUBLIC WORKS construction projects no less than the general prevailing rate of wages (consisting of hourly cash wages plus fringe benefits) for work of a similar character in the county where the work is performed.

“The Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council is proud of the wins we’ve helped facilitate against contractors who try to cheat the system,” said Perinar. “Our tax fraud department is dedicated to rooting out cases of wage theft and we will continue to pursue them aggressively.”

About the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council

The Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council represents over 52,000 working men and women across 324 counties in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Eastern Iowa. The Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council provides the construction and maintenance industries with productive, competitive and certified professionals, encompassing a wide variety of crafts and skills.