

## Michael Aaron—Business Manager and Chief Officer of Laborers' (LiUNA!) Local 1191

Opening Remarks/Introduction (5 Minutes)

**My name is Michael Aaron**, and I am the Business Manager of Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA!) Local 1191 located in Detroit, Michigan.

The Michigan Laborers District Council represents more than 13,000 skilled Tradesmen and women in the state of Michigan. Laborers' Local 1191 is one of 7 LiUNA! locals in the state of Michigan. It is also the largest in the state of Michigan representing more than 5,700 Active Construction skilled tradesmen and women in its geographical jurisdiction of Wayne and Macomb counties.

Local 1191 Members primarily work on building trades and heavy highway and bridge construction projects.

I have been a Member of Laborers' Local 1191 since 1984. I have been in Union Administration leadership since 1988—over 37 years!

As Business Manager of Laborers Local 1191, some my duties consist of:

- upholding the constitutions of the LIUNA! International organization;
- Managing the business affairs of the Local Union;
- Protecting the rights of Members and Laborers' jurisdiction on work projects;
- Enforcing all collective bargaining agreements; *AND*
- Securing fair wages & benefits through organizing, policy support & collective bargaining.

A large part of my responsibilities as Business Manager of Laborers' Local 1191 is to vet and endorse policies and candidates that support the core principles of the Organization. One of our core principals is---one man, one job!

This means that our members should be able to take care of their families with the earnings from one job.

This, among other reasons, is why the LiUNA! International and Local 1191 supported the Bipartisan Infrastructure package. The package has supported large investments in highway, street and bridge construction, which has guaranteed good paying jobs for the Local 1191 membership.

Most important to the construction industry and my membership, most of the funds in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are covered under the prevailing wage protections of the Davis-Bacon Act. The Davis-Bacon Act is very important to Labor.

This means that billions of dollars are coming into municipalities to support investments in energy technologies that will help raise standards for workers in industries like charging infrastructure for electric vehicles and clean water infrastructure.

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The bipartisan package also created unprecedented investments in underserved communities and expanded pathways into good jobs, especially for underrepresented workers.

We know that with good paying jobs comes the need for proper training. The law accounted for the need for training by creating training center partnerships between Labor Unions and employers for the installation and maintenance of energy efficient building technologies.

Surface transportation funds were also activated to create registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

Finally, and most importantly, municipalities and localities are, for the first time ever, receiving federal funds to establish local hiring programs with economic or geographic preferences to incentivize people living in these areas to pursue trade careers.

I am happy to be here today because from my perspective, the package was an easy piece of legislation for Local 1191 to get behind. It continues to positively impact every facet of my Membership's day-to-day lives.

Thank you.