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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Bill Hutchinson, *President* | Dave Efaw, *Secretary-Treasurer* | Steve White, *Director*

# Latest Study Proves PW Repeal Cheats Taxpayers, Workers and Contractors

A new, and well documented, study shows the repeal of prevailing wage has hurt West Virginia taxpayers, workers and contractors.

Looking at 29 school construction projects in West Virginia since July 1, 2015 the report concludes "repeal of prevailing wage has had negative

impacts for West Virginia's construction workers, contractors, and communities while failing to deliver any meaningful cost savings."

Some of the major findings include significant wage losses for construction workers, especially when compared to neighboring states with

prevailing wage laws.

The report also found the number of active registered apprentices has fallen by 28 percent in West Virginia, relative to neighboring states with prevailing wage laws.

Since repeal, the on-the-job construction worker injury rate in-

creased by 26 percent in West Virginia.

An analysis of 107 winning prime contract bids from July 1, 2015 to June 13, 2018 finds that repeal has had no statistical impact on inflation-adjusted school construction costs.

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# MarkWest's Sherwood Complex is Largest Gas Processing Facility in United States

MarkWest's Sherwood Complex in Doddridge County is now the largest gas-processing facility in the nation.

The site can process 2.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day and plans to continue to increase capacity in the coming years.

To mark the milestone an event was held on April 25 at the plant. Invited were corporate leaders, political figures and craft leaders of the North Central WV Building Trades.

MarkWest is a subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corporation and has partnered with Antero Resources to build the facility.

Marcellus and Utica Shale formations are rich with what is referred to as 'wet' gas. That means natural gas that also has liquid ethane, butane, propane and other compounds.

The Sherwood facility takes the

wet gas and super-chills it to separate the liquids in what is called a cryo-

genic process.

A de-ethanizer plant removes eth-

ane from the other liquids. Current

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IBEW Local 596 Business Manager Shane Ferguson (left) talks with Marathon Petroleum CEO Gary Heminger about MarkWest's Sherwood facility and plans for future expansion during an April 25 event in Doddridge County.

# KML Carpenters Lead Tax Day Protest

Dozens of Trades members took to the streets in Charleston on Tax Day, April 15, to draw attention to tax fraud in the construction industry.

“Payroll fraud is a big problem in the construction industry in West Virginia and nationally,” said Scott Brewer, one of the event organizers and a representative of the Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional Council of Carpenters.

“People don’t realize how devas-

tating this fraud is to the tax base, local communities and how it hurts legitimate companies who play by the rules.”

According to Brewer, around 20-percent of construction work in the United States is done under the table which he says boils down to \$66 billion a year is lost in the United States.

Cash payments and calling someone an independent contractor when they are not are two of the main

methods payroll fraud takes place.

“Our city, county, state and federal government needs to do more to combat Payroll Fraud and they can start by making sure different agencies talk to each other,” said Brewer.

“We see over and over that our Tax Department doesn’t talk to the Department of Highways or the Division of Labor making it easy for Payroll Fraud to take place and forcing honest taxpayers’ to foot the bill.” ■



Members of Carpenter Local's 439, 436 and Millwrights 443 along with other trades protest on Tax Day, April 15, at the Charleston Post Office. They wanted to draw attention to Payroll Fraud and how it hurts communities.

## Plumbers & Fitters 152 Apprenticeship

Morgantown Plumbers Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) Inc. will accept applications for apprenticeship at Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 152, 100 Richard Avenue, Morgantown during the following dates and times:

Tuesday, May 28 – Saturday, June 1 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday, June 3 – Saturday, June 8 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The five year program teaches all aspects of the plumbing/pipefitting trade including pipe welding certification; medical gas certification; blue print reading; plumbing; heating and cooling.

Apprentices learn on the job under the supervision of journeymen and attend classes two nights a week.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

An applicant who is 17 at the time of application can apply as long as their 18th birthday is prior to being registered by the JAC.

Applicants must take the TABE test, given by Workforce West Virginia specifically for the Morgantown Plumbers JAC.

No other test will be accepted. Individuals passing the 10th grade level test or higher will be granted an interview. Testing information will be provided at the time of application.

Applicants must be high school graduates or have a high school

equivalency diploma and must also provide copies of the following documents when applying: a high school diploma issued by a county or state education entity; a high school transcript or official transcript for the GED or equivalent; and proof of birth (birth certificate).

U.S. military veterans with an honorable discharge (active duty or reservist) must submit a DD-214 for consideration of credit for training and experience.

Applicants will be subject to a substance abuse test before entering the program.

Applicants shall be bona fide residents of the following counties (proof of residency required): Barbour, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Pendleton, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker and Upshur.

A current valid driver’s license must be supplied at the time of application. A \$20.00 application fee, cash or check only, will be charged.

The JAC will establish an eligibility list consisting of applications received.

If you have previously applied for the apprenticeship program and were not accepted, you may re-apply.

No applicant shall be rejected because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. ■

## UA Local 565 Taking Applications in June

The Parkersburg Plumbers Joint Apprenticeship will take applications from Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 21.

Applications will be available from 9:00 am till noon only, Monday through Friday.

Those interested should go to 593 Cedar Grove Road, Parkersburg (two blocks from WVU-P).

The five year program teaches all aspects of the plumbing and pipefitting trade including pipe fitting and welding, medical gas, CAD, instrument technician, blue print reading, plumbing, and heating and cooling.

Apprentices are paid while on-the-job and also go to school for a minimum of 216 hours per year.

You may be 17 years of age during application but must be 18 years of age when registered for Apprenticeship, if selected.

An applicant must have a high school diploma with official transcripts or equivalent with records, college transcripts (if applicable), and a valid driver’s license.

A copy of the applicant’s birth certificate, driver’s license, high school diploma or equivalent, and, if recently in the military, a DD214 form will be requested at the time of application.

Completed applications together with all supporting documents must be submitted within the same time period of June 10 to June 21.

Applicants must reside in the area of Local 565 which includes Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Tyler, Wirt and Wood County in WV; and in Ohio, Morgan County south of Route 78, Meigs, Monroe, and Washington County.

Applicants must pass an aptitude test administered by WV Workforce as well as an alcohol and drug test.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

For more information visit UA Local Union 565’s website at: [www.ualocal565.org](http://www.ualocal565.org). ■

# Project BEST Job Fair Held in Wheeling

Trades and contractors partnered with Project BEST in Wheeling to host a Construction Job and Career Fair on May 2nd.

According to the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades President Eran Molz the event was well attended by students, parents and other members of the community.

"We had more than 500 students from the region," said Molz. "All the Trades had booths and hands-on demonstrations to showcase the skills and careers of the crafts."

Molz believes the hands-on part was a big hit.

"Our apprenticeship folks were very pleased at the interest shown by the students and others," said Molz. "And BEST did a great job informing the public about the event."

As each group of students came, and before they hit the exhibits, IBEW representative Doug Giffin gave an overview of the crafts, careers, and apprenticeship.

During the day West Virginia

Northern Community College and Project BEST also announced a partnership between the community col-

lege and union apprenticeship programs.

Apprentices will receive credit for

their time in a registered program and with an additional 15 credits can graduate with an associated degree. ■



Two vocational students compete against third year Ironworker apprentice Robert Beach (left) as part of the Construction Jobs and Career Fair held in Wheeling. "We asked two students to compete with an apprentice to see who could tie the most rebar in a minute," said Iron Workers Local 549 Business Manager Bengy Swanson. "Our apprentice always won, but we made the point that skilled labor has great value."

## Trades Volunteer



Members of Cement Masons Local 926 (front, from left) Lee Landers, Chris Womack, Bernie Brock, Randy Wilson and in the background, Gary Casdorff finish 50 yards of concrete for a 40' x 75' picnic shelter at Kanawha County's Big Bend Golf Course.

Cornerstone Interiors Inc. sent members of the Carpenters to set the forms and various crafts will work on the building over the next few months.

According to Charleston Building Trades Business Manager Paul Breedlove the County needed help improving the area for events.

"The County Commission has always made sure local union construction workers build their major projects," said Breedlove. "We are happy to help on this one."

## PW Repeal Cheats

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West Virginia has seen more out-of-state firms getting subcontracted work and more cost overruns.

The report also refutes prior claims that savings would be realized when wages were cut.

"The purpose of this law had been to create a level playing field for construction contractors by ensuring that public expenditures reflected local market standards for compensation and craftsmanship.

Many lawmakers were persuaded by a claim that the state could "build five new schools for the price of three" if the prevailing wage law was repealed.

"However, economic data reveals that repeal of prevailing wage has had negative impacts for West Virginia's construction workers, contractors, and communities while failing to deliver any meaningful cost savings."

The report was authored by two experts in the field.

Michael Kelsay, PhD is a Profes-

sor of Economics at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

Kelsay wrote a report in 2015 comparing school construction costs in West Virginia to surrounding states and showed with prevailing wage we were already building schools at a better square foot price than states who did not have prevailing wage.

Frank Manzo IV, MPP is the Policy Director of the Midwest Economic Policy Institute.

Manzo has co-authored recent reports on prevailing wage in Indiana, Minnesota, and Illinois.

"We are not surprised by these results, in fact the data confirms exactly what we predicted," said ACT Director Steve White.

"However, we take no pleasure in being correct, instead we need to push legislators harder than ever to rethink this mistake and restore the prevailing wage law."

A full copy of the report can be found at [www.actwv.org](http://www.actwv.org). ■

# Restarting the \$7B Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Supporters of the \$7 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline held an event on Tuesday, April 9 in Weston to highlight the need to restart work on the pipeline.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) is a \$7 billion, 600-mile project led by Dominion Energy.

Starting in Harrison County, WV

the pipeline will transport natural gas produced in West Virginia to customers in Virginia and North Carolina once it's completed.

According to news reports Dominion is appealing a decision by the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals that resulted in revoking permits to cross two national forests and the

Appalachian Trail.

Dominion has agreed to use the National Pipeline Agreement for the pipeline portion of the project.

The agreement calls for a minimum of 50 percent local union construction workers building the pipeline.

Compressor station work is not covered by the pipeline agreement.

In related news, on the following day April 10, President Trump signed two executive orders to help facilitate pipeline construction.

According to news reports the orders make it harder for states to block pipelines and will clarify that the President makes the final call on permits crossing the US borders, rather than the Secretary of State. ■



Rob Richards of the Laborers speaks at an event held in Lewis County aimed at restarting the \$7 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) project.

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## Trades Lobby Congress



Members of the West Virginia State Building Trades visit with Congressman David McKinley (R-1st District) (left) during a Building Trades Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in April.

The main topic was promoting much needed infrastructure legislation.

McKinley has been a solid supporter of key Trades issues such as the Davis-Bacon Act, Project Labor Agreements, and Collective Bargaining rights. He co-chairs a bi-partisan building trades caucus in the House of Delegates.

Meetings were also held with Senator Joe Manchin (D) and Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-3rd District).

## MarkWest

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capacity is 60,000 barrels per day which will increase another 20,000 barrels per day by the end of the year. The remaining liquids are further processed and separated at other facilities.

Ethane is the key raw material for ethane crackers like the one under construction by Shell in Pennsylvania and another proposed to be built in Belmont County Ohio.

Plans are already underway for two additional cryogenic gas processing units at the site which will increase daily capacity by 400 million cubic feet per day.

While the total investment in the

site was not mentioned, MarkWest has spent more than \$10 billion in the region in the last decade. Industry observers believe the Sherwood site, where construction began in 2012, represents around \$3 billion of that amount.

"We greatly appreciate the millions of manhours our members have been able to work on this site," said Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary of the North Central WV Building Trades Council.

"And we also appreciate the recognition our members were given as valued partners in the success of this effort." ■

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