



LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF NORTH AMERICA

Feel the Power

Construction Jobs Create Permanent Careers

The construction industry is a key driver of the U.S. economy, generating more than a half-trillion dollars in economic activity each year and putting more than 6 million men and women to work. While projects begin and end, the impact on our nation is permanent, both through the family-supporting careers the industry supports and the legacy of what we build.

Construction work and construction projects are in no way temporary—they build permanent careers.

As part of the debate over building the critical energy infrastructure of America, some are denigrating the hard work of millions of men and women in the construction industry by labeling their jobs “temporary.”

What they label a “temporary” sector of our economy adds 5 to 9 percent annually to our nation’s gross domestic product—that’s more than a half-trillion dollars a year. Those dollars include paychecks that quickly circulate through communities, stimulating more job creation.

It’s one reason President Obama and others consistently tout infrastructure projects—almost certainly consisting of “temporary” jobs—as the best way to grow our economy.

Either these critics are very poorly informed about the construction industry or they are being cynically deceitful to score political points. Of course construction projects are not routinely torn down and rebuilt upon completion.

While many industries are undergoing change that degrades the quality of jobs, the construction industry is a success story of how to create good, family-supporting permanent careers.

By providing a pool of ready and highly-trained craftsworkers, the union construction sector has made it possible to have a permanent career building America. When a project is complete, workers are able to move on to the next project through their union hiring hall.

These projects help build a skilled, productive workforce. LIUNA alone provides hundreds of hours of training to tens of thousands of workers through more than 70 fixed and mobile training centers.

The training that construction crafts workers receive and upgrade for each job allows them to move from project to project, supporting families, paying mortgages and building middle-class lives.

The job of building America—our cities, energy systems, roads, bridges and transit systems—is not temporary work.

It strengthens families and communities and provides lasting assets and a legacy for generations to come.

The men and women who make construction their career create a permanent legacy that has made America great—from landmarks such as the Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Empire State Building, to the critical transportation and energy infrastructure that keeps our nation running.