



Founded 1889

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

Three Park Place • Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 269-2000 • Fax (410) 267-0262 • <http://www.ua.org>

Mark McManus
General President

Patrick H. Kellett
General Secretary-Treasurer

Michael A. Pleasant
Assistant General President

General Office File Reference: GP

TO: All UA General Officers, International Representatives, and Special Representatives in the U.S., and all UA Local Union and District Council Business Managers in the United States

FROM: General President Mark McManus

DATE: February 9, 2022

SUBJ: President Biden Signs Historic Expansion of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs)

Brothers and Sisters,

Last Friday I met with President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary of Labor Walsh at the Ironworkers Local 5 training center in Maryland, where the President signed an [Executive Order on the Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects](#) – the single most historic expansion of PLAs in our nation’s history.

This executive order requires the use of PLAs on federal construction projects above \$35 million, to help projects get completed on time and on budget. It also directs the Departments of Defense and Labor to train the federal contracting workforce on the implementation of this executive order. As you all know, PLAs dramatically increase our ability to win more work with fair wages and benefits. With this executive order, President Biden took action to ensure the use of PLAs on an estimated \$262 billion worth of federal construction contracts. This executive order will help level the playing field across the country on projects ranging from military base construction to nuclear energy storage, waterways, flood projects, and more. These projects all fall under our jurisdiction, and this executive order will help us grow our market share and create more workhours for our members.

When the United Association and the Political Engagement Committee decided to endorse Joe Biden for President, we did so knowing that he would be the most pro-worker president in generations. This executive order is further proof that President Biden is committed to his word; that he will continue to put federal policies in place designed to not only ensure equal footing throughout the bidding process, but to ensure more Americans have a fair shot at success. When we get involved in elections, we seek out candidates who will stay true to their word and help United Association members prosper. This executive order is a concrete result of our ability to engage elected officials at the highest levels of government to put our members first.

Attached to this memo, you’ll find a press statement from me and a one-page document explaining the terms of the executive order and how it affects the UA in more detail. As this executive order is implemented, we will continue to work with all our local unions on how to best engage on these projects in the bidding process to ensure that we are maximizing our ability to win this work. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office or to the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs with any questions on this executive order.

Fraternally,

Mark McManus
General President





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Contact: Andrew Galo
202-815-5334

Executive Order on Project Labor Agreements Will Create Good-Paying Union Jobs, Help More Americans Reach Middle Class

United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) General President Mark McManus hailed President Joe Biden’s Executive Order on Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) today as a historic step forward to expand workers’ rights and ensure the future of American infrastructure is built by union labor:

“Today’s executive order expanding the use of project labor agreements is a once-in-a-generation step forward for working families in America and for the men and women of the United Association,” said Mark McManus, General President of the United Association. “Project labor agreements have been widely used in our industry for more than 100 years to make sure projects are completed on time and with the highest standards of quality and safety. This executive order will lower costs, create competition, and expand job opportunities for more Americans.”

“President Biden promised to be the most pro-worker president in our nation’s history, and today’s action expanding the use of project labor agreements is further proof of his commitment to keeping that promise. This executive order will not only lead to more good-paying jobs for the men and women of the United Association, but it will fundamentally alter the landscape for all working Americans by providing a level playing field across industries. President Biden took action today to ensure the future of American infrastructure is built using project labor agreements, meaning more Americans have a fair shot at the middle class.”

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Founded in 1889, the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC (UA) proudly represents more than 359,000 highly skilled journeymen and apprentice plumbers, pipefitters, pipeliners, sprinkler fitters, welders, and HVACR service techs in the US and Canada. The UA is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU), and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).

