

# DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

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## The Washington Connection

by Jim Hadel  
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### Legislative Update

#### GREETA and Building Star

Over the past year the International Union, along with the support of numerous local unions, has worked diligently on national legislation that would help secure work for our members. Although I have referenced H.R. 5396 (the Green Roof Energy Efficiency Tax Act, or GREETA) and S. 3079 (Building Star) in previous articles, it's important to revisit these key pieces of legislation. Not only will they create jobs, but they exemplify why the International Union and affiliates need to support the legislative process. Both GREETA and Building Star would provide economic incentive for commercial building owners to re-roof existing buildings with new energy-efficient roofs, which in turn means jobs for our members.

Working in conjunction with the National Roofing Contractors Association, we've started to make progress with GREETA. We've added House sponsors and reaffirmed support from Senators. However, we continue to pursue a lead Senate sponsor from the Senate Finance Committee. Building Star, which was developed and supported by Rebuilding America (a coalition of more than sixty unions, contractors, manufacturers and efficiency experts), is basically in the same status as GREETA. We have numerous sponsors on the House side, but we still seek a leadership sponsor in the Senate.

Our local unions have shown tremendous support of GREETA and Building Star this past year. Your letters and visits to your House and Senate representatives requesting support of these issues has resulted in new sponsors. We will work on getting both pieces of legislation passed next year, in spite of the shift of power about to take place in the House of Representatives. The continued support of our local unions will be even more crucial as House members change over in many districts. Hopefully our legislators—both new and old—will focus their attention on real jobs legislation such as the GREETA and Building Star bills.

#### Project Labor Agreements

Despite the weak economy, we have approved a significant number of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) this year—approximately 130 as of the end of October. PLAs are an essential strategy to secure work for our members, and we encourage their use wherever possible. With that in mind, **please make sure that all PLAs in your jurisdiction meet the criteria and approval of the Building and Construction Trades Department.** As a reminder, each PLA must contain the following five articles from the Department's model PLA:

- 1) Clearly defined scope
- 2) Dispute and grievance resolution procedures
- 3) Resolution of jurisdictional procedures (plan language)
- 4) Subcontracting language
- 5) Helmets to Hardhats language

Please get involved in this process at the local level to protect the work jurisdiction of this union and the interests of our members. If you need further information regarding model PLAs or the approval criteria, feel free to contact me at the International office. ■

### Helmets to Hardhats

The Roofers Union has always been a strong supporter of our military veterans. In that regard we continue to support the Helmets to Hardhats program (H2H). Although work may be slow right now, we will eventually need to find qualified candidates for our apprenticeship programs. Please give our veterans departing from the military the opportunity, respect and support they deserve.

In addition, please make sure that your local union and/or JATC are registered. If it is already registered, make sure that the local's or JATC's contact information is current. If you have any questions regarding registration issues, please call a Helmets to Hardhats representative at 866-741-6210 or your International Representative for assistance. Our goal is to have 100% local union participation in this program.

Many of our local unions have placed Helmets to Hardhats candidates in positions with their signatory employers. If you have done so, please do not forget to have their employer submit their identification page to the Helmets to Hardhats Washington office. **The success and future of the H2H program is based on the placement of veterans and the verification that they are employed.** If you have an H2H candidate who has been hired since January 2009, they are eligible to receive a \$50 Craftsman Tools gift card. If you have an H2H placement who has not received the gift card, please contact Elizabeth Butler at 202-756-4697. If you have any questions regarding the H2H program, do not hesitate to call me and I will be glad to assist.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year.