

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

For Immediate Release
September 14, 2022

Contact: Pam Fendt
414-659-3803

633 South Hawley Road
Suite 110
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214
Phone (414) 771-7070
Fax (414) 771-0509
www.milwaukeeclabor.org

Workers and Labor Leaders Celebrate Signing of Historic Inflation Reduction Act
Bill will create union jobs, tax the rich, fight climate change, and lower healthcare costs

OFFICERS

Pam Fendt
President
Laborers Local 113
pam@milwaukeeclabor.org

Mark Pelzek
Vice President
AFSCME Local 47
mark@milwaukeeclabor.org

Michael Daily
Secretary
USW Local 1114
mdaily@usw.org

Ross M. Winklbauer, Sr.
Treasurer
USW Local 1343
rwinklbauer@usw.org

Washington D.C. — The large crowd who assembled on the south lawn of the White House yesterday to celebrate the historic Inflation Reduction Act included Pam Fendt, President of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council and a staff member with the Great Lakes Region of the Laborers Union; Dean Warsh, Business Manager; and John Jacobs, Assistant Business Manager of IBEW Local 494.

The IBEW union apprentice Lovette Jacobs who introduced the President noted that “around election time many promises are made but not kept. That is not how it is with President Biden,” she said. He promised to reach across the aisle on infrastructure investments and that is exactly what he did. And now, on top of the \$1 trillion specifically for infrastructure, we have \$739 billion in investment in American manufacturing and construction, funded by finally requiring corporations to pay their fair share.

And while bipartisan Infrastructure Bill was approved with votes from both Democrats and Republicans earlier this year, the bill being celebrated this week was passed with only the positive votes of Democrats. Fendt stated “that is so surprising to me. A bill that caps the insulin costs of senior citizens at \$35 and limits out of pocket prescription costs at \$2,000 a year is an amazing help for families. Not a single Republican voted for it.”

Fendt went on to note, “I completely agree with our union sister who introduced President Biden. He knows we don’t just need more jobs, we need good **union** jobs. This bill creates national labor standards for climate change work, tying standards to the incentives.”

“The value of the tax credits for stimulating renewable energy can’t be understated,” said IBEW Local 494 Business Manager Dean Warsh. “According to a Climate Jobs network analysis, a \$3 million solar energy system for a school in Milwaukee that was installed by Journey-level electricians and registered apprentices being paid Davis-Bacon wages could yield tax credits up to \$1.5 million, or 50% of the project cost.”

President Liz Shuler, who was recently in Milwaukee for the Laborfest celebration, made the following statement in support of the Inflation Reduction Act:

“The energy provisions will leverage more than \$1 trillion in private investment, create millions of jobs and cut climate pollution by 40%. And, importantly, the tax incentives as currently written include labor standards and domestic content requirements, which would create good-paying jobs in construction and manufacturing. These actions will spur the clean-energy transition we need to address the climate crisis, make clean energy more accessible and affordable, and direct investments to underserved communities.”

It's exciting to have a President in office who is a champion healthcare, tax fairness, climate change, and good jobs for families. Put simply, the Inflation Reduction Act is good for working families.

###

We are the women and men of the labor movement. Visit us at milwaukeeclabor.org

cm/afscme 1954, affcio

Organizing for economic and social justice in the workplace and community

67