



United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America



Construction Industry Tax Fraud
Days of Action – April 11–16, 2022

For Media Inquiries:

Jen McKernan, UBC Communications Director

jen.mckernan@carpenters.org | 702.667.2011

For immediate release –

April 8, 2022

Carpenters and Allies to Target Tax Fraud and Worker Exploitation During “Days of Action” Events, April 11 – 16

WASHINGTON, DC, [April 8, 2022] — Tax fraud and abuse of workers in the construction industry will be the focus of scores of protests and educational events, April 11–16, as members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC) and their allies take part in Tax Fraud Days of Action events throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Perpetrators of fraud operate at all levels of the construction industry and use a variety of schemes to victimize workers, legitimate contractors and taxpayers. A [2020 study](#) found that up to 21 percent of the construction workforce (some 2.4 million workers) are illegally paid off the books or misclassified as independent contractors. Losses to federal and state treasuries amount to some \$8.4 billion.

Tax fraud is a scourge in Canada as well. In Ontario alone, \$3.1 billion is lost every year. Nationwide in Canada, residential construction tops the list of industries in the underground economy.

A [just-released study](#) by the University of California Berkeley found that 39 percent of U.S. construction worker families, about 3 million, rely on taxpayer-funded safety-net programs. The researchers attribute the numbers, which are higher than those for all workers, to low pay, wage theft and illegal employment practices.

“The research demonstrates that, not only are cheating contractors hurting construction worker families, but they are pocketing profits at the expense of taxpayers,” said UBC General President Douglas J. McCarron. “Every year, these events bring elected officials and hard-working people together to address a silent threat in the construction industry, one that harms taxpayers and undermines our economy.”

Days of Action events include forums, press conferences, rallies, banner displays and other in-person and virtual gatherings. Local, state and provincial officeholders who are concerned about construction industry tax fraud will be featured speakers at events.

A list of some of the events in the U.S. and Canada, as well as local contacts can be found at <https://stoptaxfraud.net/standup/events>.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners represents 500,000 skilled workers throughout North America. For more information on the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' work to end tax fraud, please visit: <https://stoptaxfraud.net/>

#####

Jen McKernan
Communications Director
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America