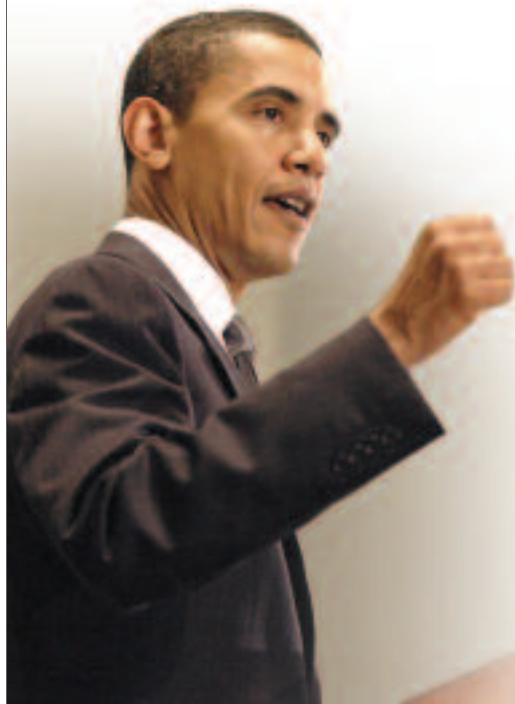


President Obama's Fresh Start for Labor

The American people were not just impatient for change when they elected Barack Obama and Joe Biden—they were ready to put themselves on the line to make change happen. That's what we saw when IUPAT members played an energetic, historic role in the 2008 elections—knocking on doors; talking to co-workers, family, and friends; getting out the vote; and advancing the labor agenda. And they didn't stop working after Election Day, as our union brothers and sisters raised their voices as one, telling elected officials they needed to support the Obama Administration's all-out effort to jump-start the economy.

Now, after eight long years of the most anti-worker administration in modern times, President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, and the whole roster of new deck hands on the ship of state are setting a bold new course for the workers' agenda.



In just the first 100 days of the Obama Administration, remarkable progress has been made on rebuilding the economy, health-care reform, protection of workers' rights, and strengthening the middle class, all while facing the largest economic crisis in generations.

The historic economic recovery act that President Obama successfully moved through Congress could create and save as many as 3.5 million jobs; invests in roads, bridges, mass transit, energy-efficient buildings, flood control, clean water projects, and other infrastructure projects; provides state fiscal relief to protect vital services and prevent layoffs; contains strong "Buy American" provisions; and extends and increases unemployment benefits.

OBAMA WORKS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Within days of taking office, Obama signed two major bills that had been killed by Bush vetoes or veto threats:

- the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which overturned a 2007 U.S. Supreme Court decision that made it virtually impossible for workers to challenge pay discrimination based on gender; and
- the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) reauthorization, which provided health coverage for 11 million low-income children and which Bush vetoed twice in 2007.

And that's not all. The first weeks of the Obama Administration were a whirlwind of activity that showed the world what the new team in Washington is made of—common-sense priorities; exceptional ability; and focused, hard work.

- The White House Task Force on Middle Class Working Families, a Cabinet-level task force chaired by Biden, was created to develop and coordinate policies to rebuild the nation's middle class and lift the poor out of poverty.
- Executive orders reversing Bush-era, anti-worker policies were put on the books to expand worker protections, overturn the Bush Administration's ban on project labor agreements (PLAs) on federal and federally funded construction, and remove limits on union representation on federal contracts.
- The Obama Administration moved to stop federal contractors from being reimbursed for union-busting propaganda campaigns during collective bargaining.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden proved time and again during their Senate careers that they understood the challenges faced by working families and that they were committed to putting the engine of government to work on finding effective, long-term solutions.

"I had a conversation with Vice President Joe Biden," IUPAT General President James A. Williams said recently, "and he told me 'we're going to build bridges and build schools and, instead of doing it in Iraq, we are going to do it in the United States.'"

"My relationship with Joe Biden goes back about 30 years," Williams says. "I was a business agent in Wilmington, Del., when he was first running for office. I'm glad we've finally got a team in the White House that knows how much working fami-

lies are hurting, and also how important labor unions are to fixing what's wrong with the economy."

IUPAT members, along with our brothers and sisters throughout the labor movement, are joining with the Obama/Biden Administration to build on the remarkable success of the last few months and secure a new, pro-worker future for our families and future generations as well. President Obama and Vice President Biden believe that the greatness of America lies in the homes, the hearts, and the hands of America's working families. That simple formula is the basis for the victories we've achieved this year, and the ones we can look forward to achieving in the months and years to come.

RECOVERY.GOV—SEE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WORKING FOR ALL OF US

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an unprecedented effort to jump-start our economy, save and create millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression. With much at stake, the Act provides for unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability so you will be able to know how, when, and where your tax dollars are being spent. Spearheaded by a new Recovery Board, this Act contains built-in measures to root out waste, inefficiency, and unnecessary spending.

Recovery.gov will be the main vehicle to provide each and every citizen with the ability to monitor the progress of the recovery.

IUPAT GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS WELCOMES NEW FIELD STAFFER

Rod Hogetvedt, member of District Council 82/Local Union 386 (Minneapolis), has officially joined the IUPAT Government Affairs team to direct political action and outreach efforts in the IUPAT Central Region.

"Rod's talent and know-how in the political arena have served our union well on the local level over the last few years," said IUPAT General President James Williams. "We're looking forward to putting his experience to work for the benefit of the entire region."

A third generation painter, Rod joined the IUPAT in 1967 when he signed on to be an apprentice painter in Minneapolis Local Union 386. After working in residential painting and paper hanging for six years, he was hired by the University of Minnesota to temp in the paint shop for annual fast track maintenance for a summer. That one summer turned into 28 years where he eventually became general foreman for the university overseeing an average crew of 50 painters.

Rod remained active in his union throughout those years as well. In addition to maintaining and upgrading his skills by attending training programs, he held various positions

in his local as a trustee, financial secretary and a delegate to a number of local labor organizations.

In 2000, Rod took the position of organizer for the newly formed District Council 82 in the Minneapolis area. At the same time, he became deeply involved in political action for the district council as well.

"Our members are facing challenges we as a labor movement haven't seen since the Great Depression," said

Hogetvedt. "I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to do my part for the IUPAT to make certain our members' future holds some promise and prosperity sooner rather than later. Our members work hard every day and I want them to know that they won't get anything less from me in my new position."



Rod Hogetvedt