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REGIONAL MANAGER

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA
NORTHEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

November 28, 2011

Mr. David Young, President
Rochester Building & Construction Trades Council
2300 East River Road
Rochester, New York 15623

Dear Mr. Young:

I am writing to inform you that as the Executive Secretary Treasurer (EST) of the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters we will no longer be paying our per capita contributions to the Rochester Building Construction Trades Council (RBCTC) due to your ongoing hand billing activity.

As EST of this Council, it is my single focus every day to place our organization in the best possible position to put our members to work under the framework of our collective bargaining agreement; not to seek petty, short-sighted and untenable battles that produce no tangible positive outcomes for any of our members. To continue this campaign, is a disservice to the members of those participating crafts and to the entire labor movement. Therefore, I am asking you to cease the hand billing activities on the job sites. Failure to do so is not only hurting our members but an abject failure of leadership.

The issue that should be at the forefront of discussion is how do we as a labor movement adapt to economic changes that our entire industry has endured since the beginning of the "Great Recession" in September of 2008. Our organization has changed our business model to ensure our contractors are in the best possible position to gain market share for Carpenter work. We have changed so that our organization is ahead of the curve as we have witnessed an industry that is more regional and continues to evolve faster than we have seen in the last fifty years. We have changed so that our contractors can remain competitive against the growing influence on non-union contractors within the markets that we all used to have a foothold in. Simply stated, we are seeking the man-hours for our members under our collective bargaining agreement, not seeking work of any other crafts.

Your campaign is misguided and actually distracts all of us within the movement from what should be our singular focus; putting our members to work and gaining market share for our signatory contractors. Furthermore, your campaign seems to be an isolated one as we are viewed as a valuable and cooperative partner in many of the Building Trades Councils throughout our entire Council. In fact, I serve as the Vice-President to both the New Jersey and New York State Councils and we have board members in many of the Trades Councils throughout the region. It is clear that you are importing issues that are taking place half way across the country and trying to manufacture those same isolated issues in Rochester.

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We owe it to all of our respective memberships to act in their best interest and will continue to utilize their hard earned dues in a manner that is responsible and produces man hours and market share; not by seeking to attack another craft, which is misguided and misleading.

Sincerely,


Michael Capelli
Executive Secretary Treasurer

cc: Mark Ayers, President -Building & Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO
William Mullen, President - NJ State Building & Construction Trades Council
Edward Malloy, President - NY State Building & Construction Trades Council
Douglas J. McCarron, General President, United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America
Frank Spencer, Vice President - UBCJA Eastern District