

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

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## LONNIE R. STEPHENSON International President

KENNETH W. COOPER International Secretary-Treasurer March 5, 2021

## VIA EMAIL

To: All International Vice Presidents, Local Union Business Managers and International Representatives in the United States

## **Re: IBEW Monthly Political Newsletter**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Attached is the second installment of the monthly newsletter that has been initiated to keep members informed about the new presidential administration. Please read and circulate it to the general membership. The Biden administration is barely six weeks old, but it is operating overtime to get the United States back on its feet.

Every day, President Biden recognizes the primacy of American workers, collective bargaining and the labor movement. Two weeks ago, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) President Trumka, other labor leaders and myself spent 90 minutes in the Oval Office speaking with President Biden and Vice President Harris about apprenticeships, infrastructure legislation and pensions. Then, President Biden cancelled the Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP), which could have diluted the gold-standard apprenticeships that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and its signatory contractors operate. Just five days ago, President Biden came out with a video recognizing collective bargaining rights and calling out employers who attempt to bust organizing campaigns. Never before has a president been so public in their support of the values that the IBEW holds dear.

Those are just two examples of what can be found in the attached newsletter. I encourage you to distribute it to your members and discuss the content at monthly meetings. Also, please feel free to include its material in your own letters and communications to rank-and-file members.

Thank you for your assistance in getting this information out, as it is critically important that IBEW members stay informed. If you have any questions or need anything else, please contact Political and Legislative Affairs Department Director Austin Keyser at (202) 728-6046 or by email to <u>Austin Keyser@ibew.org</u>.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

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Lonnie R. Stephenson International President

LRS:smw Attachment Copy to All Executive Assistants