

## What Has President Obama Done for You Lately?

# PLENTY!

**1.** President Obama signed an executive order that would encourage the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on federal construction projects.

**2.** The U.S. Department of Labor is moving to curb abuses relating to the “misclassification” of construction workers, as well as the abuse of the H-2B visa process to import skilled craft workers into America to take the jobs of Building Trades members.

**3.** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the stimulus bill) has added 1.6 million to 1.8 million jobs so far and its ultimate impact will be roughly 2.5 million jobs.

**4.** With the passage of Wall Street reform legislation, the Obama administration has stabilized a financial system that was teetering on the edge of collapse.

**5.** In spite of vicious opposition from Republicans, President Obama and the Democratic Congress have cut taxes for 95 percent of all working Americans, and provided record amounts of unemployment assistance and other aid to struggling families—including many Building Trades members.

**6.** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has funded more than 100,000 projects to upgrade roads, bridges, airports, schools, military bases and much more.

**7.** The U.S. Department of Energy is pouring roughly \$90 billion into clean energy projects—which are creating job opportunities for Building Trades members.

**8.** The Obama administration has put the country on track to exceed the goal of doubling our use of renewable power by 2012. The wind industry added a record 10,000 megawatts in 2009, including the Solar Millennium Blythe power plant in California—a 1,000-MW solar trough project. The first 500 MW phase is scheduled to begin construction under a Project Labor Agreement in November 2010 and will

take three years to construct. The entire 1,000 MW project will require from 6 million to 8 million hours of construction. That’s more than 1,000 new good union construction jobs that will last for years to come!

**9.** In early October, President Obama announced the ground-breaking for the Ivanpah solar project, which will be constructed through a \$1.37 billion federal loan guarantee, and which also will be constructed under a Project Labor Agreement.

**10.** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included federal loan guarantees for the construction of the next generation of nuclear power plants—the first of which are going to be built 100 percent union, creating tens of thousands of jobs for our members.

In 2008, Barack Obama talked about change. But for two years, his administration and the Democratic-controlled Congress have had to spend most of their time cleaning up messes in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the Gulf of Mexico and on Wall Street and Main Street—all of which were the byproduct of roughly 30 years of reckless conservative control of our government.

At every step of the way, Republicans opposed these measures as part of their political gamble to leave Democrats holding the bag for an economy that was sure to be weak in 2010.

Their selfish political interests have for two years now been centered upon trying to ensure the failure of President Obama, which has superseded any interest they may have had in addressing the pressing concerns of our economy and, more importantly, the struggles of middle-class, working Americans.

But the record President Obama has accumulated in fighting for the interests of America’s Building Trades unions represents his real down-payment on CHANGE. Change for the better. And change that puts our great nation on a path to a future that once again offers prosperity and security for all Americans, not just the wealthy few.