



## NORTH ATLANTIC STATES CARPENTERS POLITICAL TEAM

### INSTRUCTIONS

This PDF contains information on an important issue affecting carpenters in your state. Inside, you'll find a one-page fact sheet on the issue you're supporting and a sample letter to send to your District Attorney. Use these resources to make your voice heard and advocate for change!

[Date]

[Title] [Full Name of District Attorney]

[District Attorney Office Address]

Dear [Title] [Last Name],

[Intro] As a constituent and as the child of a union Carpenter, I urge your office to work to **increase the enforcement of laws against wage theft, payroll fraud, and worker safety.**

***Add two-three short paragraphs on why you support the increased enforcement (please don't use the exact language).***

Wage theft and payroll fraud are rampant in the construction industry, hurting hardworking families and responsible businesses. In New York State, these abuses have **cost tax payers a total of \$603.6 million**. Wage theft, workers' compensation insurance premium fraud, and tax fraud are built into the business models of unscrupulous contractors that feed off of the underground economy in the construction industry. These business practices allow them to outbid law-abiding businesses, with wage theft alone cutting payroll costs up to 30%.

Under-reporting their workers' compensation insurance premium fraud allows businesses to gain an advantage in bidding on the backs of hardworking tradespeople like my parent. Injured workers can't get the treatment they don't have coverage for and the unpaid medical expenses are passed onto workers' families.

[Conclusion] Holding corrupt contractors accountable is a necessity, especially when the numbers show an egregious wrongdoing to the entire state. Men and women, like my family, go to work every day and are being cheated out of their hard-earned wages and legally required protections by businesses looking to save some money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Full Address]



## **NORTH ATLANTIC STATES CARPENTERS POLITICAL TEAM**

# **-NYS District Attorney Outreach-**

### **TOPIC: WAGE THEFT ENFORCEMENT**

Wage theft and payroll fraud run rampant in the construction industry forcing law abiding, often union, contractors to compete with businesses who break the law as part of their every day business model.

Wage theft is when contractors exploit workers by paying them under the table, sometimes withholding wages or failing to pay them entirely. They also avoid contributing to unemployment insurance and workers' compensation while violating worksite safety standards. These unfair practices steal billions from workers and the state, and put honest contractors at a disadvantage.

These are common practice crimes. They are intentional, systematic, and widespread. They are enmeshed in the underground construction industry, but are also personal. They matter when it comes time to put dinner on the table for families across New York State.

### **YOUR TASK: WRITE YOUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Write a letter to your District Attorney explaining the seriousness of these crimes and urging them to investigate and prosecute wage theft and payroll fraud within their district.

- **Additional Resources:**

- <https://stoptaxfraud.net/>
- <https://tcf.org/content/report/up-to-2-1-million-u-s-construction-workers-are-illegally-misclassified-or-paid-off-the-books/>
- <https://www.nasrcc.org/wagetheft/>
- <https://www.daasny.com/>