

Teamsters Joint Council 25 Political Department Update



June 6, 2008

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

General Assembly Passes Budget

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned on May 31 after passing a \$60 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2009. The increased spending for the 2009 budget is reportedly out of balance by \$2 billion. Governor Rod Blagojevich has called on legislative leaders to meet this week to discuss the new budget and has indicated the possibility of calling legislators back to Springfield this summer. Little progress was made at the meeting. The General Assembly is currently scheduled to reconvene for Veto Session in November.

Joint Council 25 Supports “Illinois Works Capital Program”

Teamsters Joint Council 25 lobbyists as well as representatives from Teamster Locals 179, 325 and 726 were in Springfield last week to support the “Illinois Works Capital Plan.” The capital plan proposed over \$34 billion in capital improvements and the creation of over 500,000 jobs in Illinois. The proposal was developed by the Illinois Works Coalition, led by former U.S. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard, after statewide meetings were held on a capital plan this spring. The capital plan proposed funding projects through the leasing of the Illinois lottery and gaming expansion. The plan gained bi-partisan support in the Senate but fell short in the House due to a lack of support for the lottery lease and gaming expansion.

The capital issue will be ongoing. ***We encourage all Joint Council 25 members to contact their local legislators and express their support for a statewide construction program.***

IDOT Supplemental Funding Passes Legislature

The Illinois Legislature passed House Bill 5215, which provides \$20 million in supplemental funding for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The supplemental funding was needed to cover fuel and other related costs for the remaining fiscal year. Teamsters Joint Council 25 worked with Teamsters Local 726 to see this legislation through final passage.

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH LEGISLATIVE ISSUES/CONCERNS

Teamsters Joint Council 25 is already working towards a legislative agenda for the next General Assembly. Please contact Joint Council 25 if you have potential legislative issues you would like to discuss.

For questions or comments regarding any legislative issue please contact the Joint Council 25 Political Department at 312.421.2600.

For a complete legislative tracking list go to www.chicagoteamsters.org.