



#### MARBA OFFICERS

THOMAS NORDEEN  
Chairman

RICK GRABOWSKI  
Vice Chairman

KATHLEEN KAPOVICH  
Vice Chairman

THOMAS RAKOW  
Treasurer

R. LYNN TREAT  
Secretary

CAROL LORD  
Executive Director

July 14, 2010

CONTACT: Lissa Druss Christman, 312.228.4782 office; 312.259.8600 mobile

### STATEMENT FROM TOM NORDEEN, CHAIRMAN OF MID-AMERICA REGIONAL BARGAINING ASSOCIATION

(DES PLAINES, IL) *Tom Nordeen, Chairman of the Mid-America Regional Bargaining Association (MARBA) today made the following statement:*

MARBA represents nearly 300 large, medium and small contractors in the Chicago metropolitan area. MARBA contractors work on major and other projects, large and small, in and around the Chicagoland area.

We can't speak for CIACA, but we do know that the major projects in the area are on hold because of the unions' tactics.

This agreement has no effect on the on-going negotiations MARBA is involved with the trades unions. MARBA's members stand together as one in the negotiation process.

MARBA maintains there was no reason to strike when union workers could have continued to earn their high wages of \$53.37 and \$66.38 an hour in wage and benefits.

For everyone to get back to work, the unions are going to have to step out of the bubble they've been living in for the last few years that has shielded them from the harsh realities of this recession.

Over the last 10 years, the Laborers have enjoyed a 77 percent increase in their combined wages and benefits package, outpacing cost of living by nearly 50 percent. In that same period, the Operating Engineers' wages and benefits increased by 75 percent – 45 percent over the decade's cost of living increase.

Almost every American has had to make some adjustments to their lifestyle in this economic climate. People have lost their jobs, their homes and their pensions. It's unrealistic and unfair for the unions to demand unreasonable increases to their wages and benefits when non-union employees in all sectors of the economy are making tremendous sacrifices just to stay afloat.