



North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) is an affiliate of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC). We have partnered with industries and our signatory contractors to provide highly skilled, trained professional construction workers since 1881. NCSRCC represents 27,000 Millwrights, Pile Drivers, Carpenters, Interior Systems and Industrial workers in IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, and WI. Our 2025 Minnesota legislative priorities include:

I. Support a Large Capital Investment (Bonding) Bill

- The Carpenters support a comprehensive bonding bill that includes maximizing the state's ability to use general obligation bonds to invest in the state's infrastructure needs.
- Bonding bills fund public infrastructure projects, leading to significant work opportunities for thousands of union Carpenters including pile drivers, millwrights, and other skilled trades.
- It has been nearly two years since Minnesota passed a bonding bill. Delaying infrastructure improvements leads to higher costs due to extended deterioration and emergency repairs.
- Long-term infrastructure projects are in demand, and they provide steady employment over an extended period of time while offering job security and career stability.
- Every \$1 invested in public infrastructure regenerates multiple times through economic activity, boosting local businesses and increased tax revenues.
- Investing in roads, bridges, schools, safe water systems, and public buildings ensures safe and modern facilities for Minnesota citizens.
- Bonding projects support union apprentices by training the next generation of skilled workers at no cost to taxpayers. They also create a pathway for younger workers, veterans, and others transitioning into the trades.

II. Repeal of Minnesota's Nuclear Moratorium (S.F. 2953/ H.F. 2002)

Minnesota's decarbonization goals include, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 with a focus on clean transportation, climate-smart lands, resilient communities, clean energy, and a healthy economy.

- In order to meet the state's decarbonization goals and upcoming needs, we need to utilize all technologies, including nuclear energy.
- Existing nuclear power plants in Minnesota have a strong track record for delivering safe, carbon-free, and reliable electricity.
- Nuclear plants create thousands of jobs for carpenters and millwrights through construction and ongoing maintenance.

III. Support the Construction of Data Centers with a Regulatory and Tax Environment that is Attractive and Competitive to Developers

- Many data centers provide thousands of good-paying, local union jobs that support families and provide good benefits.
- Once built, data centers require ongoing upgrades and expansions, creating consistent work for tradespeople.
- These same data centers contribute millions in local tax revenue, which supports schools, emergency services, and infrastructure without increasing tax burdens on citizens.
- The growing demand for Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and digital services ensures data centers remain a reliable source of construction and maintenance work for years.



- Minnesota is a leader in renewable energy, and data centers require energy-efficient design, solar, and wind power integration. This creates even more work opportunities to ensure they are powered with carbon-free electricity.

IV. Support County Attorney's Authorization to Use Administrative Subpoenas in Wage Theft Investigations (S.F. 1909/H.F. 689)

Carpenters work hard every day to combat wage theft. However, more needs to be done.

Unscrupulous contractors continue to take an unfair advantage over honest contractors by not paying workers their owed wages for all hours worked, not paying required overtime, taking illegal deductions, or misclassifying employees.

- We support allowing county attorneys to subpoena records of payments to contractors and employees, knowing it will allow investigations to be completed in a timelier fashion.
- Wage theft is not going away. For too many, the financial incentives and obtaining an unfair advantage over honest contractors has long been worth the risk of getting caught. We urge you to provide county attorneys with the same subpoena authority as law enforcement.
- This legislation will be another tool used to address this widespread problem and result in more prosecutions of some of the worst offenders who continue to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from undeserving workers.

V. Support an Increase in Employer Misrepresentation and Misconduct Penalties (S.F. 2361/H.F. 2145)

This legislation addresses those individuals who **knowingly** decide to “misrepresent” or engage in “misconduct” to cheat our unemployment insurance (UI) and benefits system for their own financial gain.

- It increases the required amount of repayment of UI benefits from 50 percent to 100 percent, ensuring that defrauding our UI system does not include a financial incentive.
- UI fraud is directly linked to tax fraud, workers compensation fraud, and wage theft.
- This also adds a \$10,000 penalty for each employee purposefully or fraudulently misclassified. This would not apply to clerical errors or target unsuspecting small business owners.

VI. Support \$225,000 in grants each year to Building Strong Communities for the Operation of the Helmets to Hardhats Initiative (S.F. 2373/H.F. 2441)

This ongoing initiative is used to recruit, retain, assist, and support National Guard, reserve, and active-duty military members' and veterans' participation in apprenticeship programs registered with the Department of Labor and Industry.

- The program connects service members and veterans to career training and employment in the building and construction trades.