

What Union Leaders Have to Say about PLAs

Mark Breslin, Executive Director of the Engineering and Utility Contractors Association

- “PLAs have become a vehicle for circumventing... subsidizing some non-performing local unions and their weak leadership.”
- “PLAs require contractors to sign with nearly every union regardless of need, operational history, or efficiency.”
- “For many it (a PLA) is just a free hand out that turns the contractors upside down.”
- “PLAs have become a welfare program.”
- “PLAs are life support for some unions that have been unable, unwilling or incapable of meeting the market’s needs for years.”

IBEW on the organization “California Unions for Responsible Energy”

- “... after being held back for almost 2 years, they’ve (the owner) decided that it is much better to work with CURE” and agreed to a PLA.
- “...many, if not most of the plants, would probably go non-union if not for this coalition (CURE).”
- “...by getting involved with environmental aspects of these construction projects we have been able to help protect... our (union) members.”

Joseph Hunt, Vice President of the AFL-CIO

- “...it is my duty to inform you there has been an increase in work stoppages on jobs governed by PLAs.”
- “...PLAs are being used more and more frequently to help gain market share...”
- “...They (owners) have a choice, and they know that the non-union do not have jurisdictional disputes nor do they strike.”

Edward Malloy from Building and Construction Trades Council of New York

- “...These PLAs, which typically involve modest adjustments on issues other than wages and supplements, can reap huge rewards for the union sector of the industry by assuring that all work from start to finish- including tenant build-outs- will be done union.”

California Building and Construction Trades Council President Robert Balgenorth in speech before National IBEW

- “These (projects) were built with a hundred-percent union labor using project labor agreements.”



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