Governor Tony Evers Takes Action Against Worker Exploitation With Executive Order

**Madison, Wisconsin** — Governor Tony Evers signed an Executive Order Monday that gives the state tools to investigate and take action against employers that misclassify workers as independent contractors. “This is a major step for workers in Wisconsin,” said Pam Fendt, President of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. “It strengthens Wisconsin’s ability to go after employers who exploit workers and break the rules.”

Misclassification allows contractors to avoid paying unemployment taxes, worker’s compensation, and other costs, at the expense of the employee. Not only are these employers cheating working people out of pay and benefits for an honest day’s work, they are cheating the taxpayers of Wisconsin. Misclassifying workers means the state loses out on the taxes that employers SHOULD be paying on these workers.

The misclassification of workers is far too common among certain unscrupulous contractors in the construction industry. “Employee misclassification affects hundreds of workers in Wisconsin. When an employee is wrongly classified as an “independent contractor” both the state and the worker suffer. The creation of this task force will create stronger protections for our state’s workers,” said Dan Bukiewicz, President of the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council.

It is refreshing to see this Administration work towards leveling the playing field for all Wisconsin employers. Wisconsin’s economic growth should be built on a basis of quality and integrity and this measure takes a strong and important step.

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