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Arizona Pipe Trades brings labor issues to the forefront with federal officials

April 18, 2011 – PHOENIX Arizona Pipe Trades Local 469 took its concerns regarding Arizona jobs, renewable energy projects and Davis-Bacon regulatory compliance straight to federal decision makers this month, as part of its delegation’s annual legislative visit to Washington, DC.

Maintaining an aggressive and proactive government relations agenda year round, the Arizona Pipe Trades participated in the annual Building and Construction Trades Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, the construction trades’ largest national legislative gathering of the year. Additionally, the delegation enjoyed significant progress in holding productive dialogue with both elected and appointed officials on issues of concern to the Arizona Pipe Trades, as well as items of mutual interest including renewable energy projects, federal legislation as it pertains to organized labor, and support and assistance for Davis-Bacon compliance enforcement for federally funded projects.

“This year, our organization made significant strides in educating our officials regarding our interests, securing commitments for future collaboration, and strengthening existing relationships as well as establishing new ones,” stated Phil McNally, Arizona Pipe Trades business manager. “Engaging and dialoguing face-to-face helps further our current public policy agenda, as well as lay the foundation for 469’s future needs in the political arena – most of which focus on Arizona jobs for Arizona workers.”

Additionally, the Arizona Pipe Trades participated in a small-group, multi-state summit with top-level US Department of Labor officials to discuss regulatory issues and enforcement of Davis-Bacon laws on federally funded construction projects. “This provides a level playing field for our contractors and our highly trained workforce – something we haven’t seen on many public projects in recent years,” McNally added.

The Arizona Pipe Trades 469 has been protecting the health of our state for more than a century through its plumbing, pipefitting and HVAC service work. The organizations’ partner contractors employ its members in various construction industries in the heavy industrial, commercial and residential sectors. Visit the Arizona Pipe Trades’ website at www.ualocal469.org.



Israel Torres, Chris VanKirk, Henry Olea and Mel Ingwaldson (left to right) at Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords’ offices after a productive meeting with her staff



The 469 delegation with Congressman Ed Pastor, discussing several issues that are important to the Arizona Pipe Trades 469 and its membership including solar projects, Davis Bacon compliance and federal legislation that affects union labor