

Casino projects help support the local worker

By:

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For generations, the union worker has been the backbone of Western New York.

Our members have spent their lives building Western New York as a great place to earn a living and raise a family. We build our roads and construct the buildings and houses where the people of this great region live, work and enjoy entertainment and recreation.

For decades, we have felt the effects of company closings and job and population loss on the front lines.

Our members have watched their children and grandchildren leave town to seek – and find – opportunity elsewhere. We have watched business and industry leave, taking thousands of good-paying jobs and many of our friends and neighbors with them, while nobody has come in to take their place.

Investment and development have been scarce for years, making our task of putting thousands of skilled laborers to work on local projects more and more difficult.

Now, the Seneca Nation has come with the vision and commitment to build an exciting new entertainment industry to help revive the local economy and provide jobs for thousands of Western New Yorkers.

Unlike many other developers, the Senecas also brought with them the commitment to build their exciting new projects with the hard-working men and women of Western New York.

Hundreds of our members turned an old, under-utilized convention center in Niagara Falls into a wonderful new entertainment facility in the heart of the city's

downtown in just 100 days. Hundreds more were used to construct a 26-story hotel at that facility which gives evidence that Western New York can compete with the thriving entertainment development across the border.

Those local workers feed money back into the Western New York economy. The money stays here and supports the local community.

It will be local workers who will also build the Senecas' proposed casino in downtown Buffalo too.

A project like this, with \$125 million in private investment, does not come along too often in Western New York. How many other projects have we heard developers talk about, but ultimately never bring home? Our recent development history is notorious, not for what has been accomplished, but for the long string of projects that got away.

The Senecas backed up their words with action.

We are proud of the work that our members have done to help the Seneca Nation build their projects. Projects like Seneca Niagara Casino and its hotel, and like Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino are the lifeblood of our members.

Union workers are the people you see every day. We live in every neighborhood in Western New York. We depend on projects like Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino for our livelihood – to support our families and to put food on our tables.

Without projects like the casino developments, our members – thousands of Western New Yorkers just like you – would be struggling to get by.

As much as anyone, we want businesses to bring opportunity and development here to help turn our region's fortunes around.

Development means jobs and the Seneca Nation has proven in just the past few years that they have what it takes to get the job done.