



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 'WV STATE BUILDING TRADES' - FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @WVSBT

A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Justin Williams, Director

# Trades Main Feature at South Legislative Event

Last month, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades participated in the Council of State Governments Southern Legislative Conference as a main sponsor of the event in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

The event hosted more than a thousand guests including lawmakers, government staff, and private sector officials from West Virginia as well as the 14 other states in the southern region including: Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The annual conference, which rotates among member states each year, was last hosted in West Virginia more than a decade ago in 2012.

Members of the trades viewed this as a rare opportunity to network with lawmakers & industry officials and pursue relationships with potential new developers.

"We have the best, most highly trained construction workforce avail-

able," said Justin Williams, Director of the WV Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT).

"This was a great event to help showcase what we do and how we can support both the public and

private sector when it comes to economic development."

**Cont. on p. 2 >>**



Justin Williams, Director of the WV Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT), speaks to the crowd during 'WV Night,' an event held by the WV Building and Construction Trades as a part of the 2024 Southern Legislative Conference in Greenbrier County. Also pictured: (from left): Senate President Craig Blair, Governor Jim Justice, House Finance Chairman Vernon Criss (right of center), and WV Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw.

# U.S. Senate Committee on Energy Passes Bill on Energy & Mineral Permitting Reform

On July 31, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee met to consider a new bill, sponsored by Chairman Joe Manchin (I-WV) and Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-WY), to accelerate the permitting

process for critical energy and mineral projects in the United States.

The bill, named the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (EPRA), was approved on a bipartisan vote by Senators on the Committee and was

approved to be reported out with a vote of 15-4.

While the bill still requires full Congressional approval before potentially becoming law, this is one major step forward on an issue that

has long-been supported by the Trades.

"We are excited to see Congress working across party lines on permitting reform," said George Capel,

**Cont. on p. 2 >>**

# \$1.5 Billion Project Tri-State Building Trades Sign MOU to Build State-of-the-Art Hydrogen Plant

Earlier this month, the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Trillium

H2Power.

According to the agreement, members of the Building Trades will be utilized to build a state of the art,

large-scale, hydrogen-fueled power generation and manufacturing plant at the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in rural Pike County with additional sites in Central Appalachia.

The project was publicized earlier this year, in January, when the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) announced that Trillium H2 Power, LLC had purchased the initial 80 acres of land for a major 250-acre reindustrialization project that aimed to reinvigorate manufacturing and the economy in the Ohio Valley and Central Appalachia.

At the site, Trillium H2 Power, LLC (tH2), is preparing to build its \$1.5 billion h2Trillium Energy and Manufacturing (h2TEAM) complex, which will transform land from the former PORTS facility into an integrated clean decarbonized hydrogen power generation and closed loop manufacturing facility producing clean ammonia and clean silicon.

Construction on the project is ex-

pected to begin in early 2025.

For the total project build out over time, during construction phases, h2TEAM expects to create an estimated 2,000 construction jobs and generate over \$346 million in local economic impact.

In the long term, the project is expected to create an estimated 300 operations and maintenance jobs and over \$198 million annually to the regional economy.

“We are proud to partner with Trillium h2Power on this new state-of-the-art plant,” said John Holbrook, Executive Secretary for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council.

“The Building Trades members in the Southern OH and Tri-State area are some of the safest, most productive and most highly skilled construction workers in the world and we’re ready to put that talent to work.”

For more information on Trillium H2 Power, log on to [www.trilliumenergy.com](http://www.trilliumenergy.com). ■



John Holbrook (left), Executive Secretary for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades signs an agreement with Sam Belcher (right), CEO of Trillium, to use Building Trades workers to construct a \$1.5 billion hydrogen-fueled power generation and manufacturing plant in Portsmouth, Ohio.

## South Legislative

**Continued from Page 1**

In addition to sponsoring the conference, the Trades also specifically hosted the ‘WV Night’ event at the Greenbrier, inviting lawmakers as well as energy and manufacturing industry officials to network and develop new partnerships with the Trades.

In attendance during the night’s events were representatives from the WV House & Senate and the WV Governor’s Office as well as WVU, Amazon, American Electric Power, Berkshire Hathaway, Nucor, AT&T, and many others.

“Events like this help bring attention to the great work completed by all of our crafts as well as place us at

the center of the conversation surrounding West Virginia’s workforce and economic development opportunities,” said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the WV Building and Construction Trades Council. “We appreciate everyone who helped make this a success, and we will continue pursuing partnerships with existing lawmakers and officials to promote all of our construction crafts.”

To learn more about the Southern Legislative Conference, and to see a report on all conference activities, log on to [www.csgsouth.org/south-ern-legislative-conference/](http://www.csgsouth.org/south-ern-legislative-conference/). ■

## Permitting Reform

**Continued from Page 1**

Government Relations Director for the WV Building and Construction Trades Council.

“A bill like this will help ensure contractors, developers, and utilities won’t have to wait years on bureaucratic huddles to begin construction on much-needed energy projects.”

During the business meeting, Chairman Manchin highlighted the broad input from both members and stakeholders appearing before the Committee that went into the legislation and reiterated the importance of accelerating the permitting process for American energy security and emission reductions.

“We’ve listened to everyone, and I think that we’ve hit it right in the middle, where good and enduring

policy that can get through a bipartisan process is made and it should weather the test of time,” said Senator Manchin.

“[The bill] will make meaningful and reasonable changes to ensure that America continues to be the superpower of the world when it comes to both energy production and emissions reductions,” Senator Manchin continued.

“It speaks volumes to this Committee’s commitment to good sensible policy that we’ve been able to come together on this piece of legislation at a time when our country in politics is so divided.”

For more information, including the bill summary and full text, log on to [www.energy.senate.gov](http://www.energy.senate.gov). ■

# Election Day: November 5

## 2024 General Election Endorsements

	<u>US Congress</u>	15th	Erica Moore (R)	54th	Mike Pushkin (D)	76th	Rick Garcia (D)
	Riley Moore (R)	20th	Sarah Drennan (R)	55th	JB Akers (R)	77th	Joe Statler (R)
	<u>State Treasurer</u>	23rd	Evan Worrell (R)	56th	Kayla Young (D)	78th	Diane Market Gaston (D)
	Larry Pack (R)	25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D)	57th	Hollis Lewis (D)	79th	Evan Hansen (D)
	<u>Attorney General</u>	26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R)	58th	Walter Hall (R)	80th	John Williams (D)
	John "JB" McCuskey (R)	27th	Michael Amos (R)	59th	Andy Shamblin (R)	81st	Anitra Hamilton (D)
		28th	Ryan Browning (R)	60th	Dana Ferrell (R)	88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R)
	<b>State Senate</b>	29th	Wayne Bug Williamson (D)	67th	Cody Thompson (D)	90th	George Miller (R)
2nd	Chris Rose (R)	30th	Jeff Eldridge (R)	68th	Chris Phillips (R)	96th	Lisa White (R)
5th	Ric Griffith (D)	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R)	71st	Laura Kimble (R)	97th	Lucia Valentine (D)
9th	Brian Helton (R)	34th	Mark Dean (R)	73rd	Bryan Smith (R)	99th	Wayne Clark (R)
13th	Joey Garcia (D)	35th	Adam Vance (R)	75th	Stephanie Tomana (D)	100th	Maria Russo (D)
	<b>House of Delegates</b>	40th	Roy Cooper (R)				
1st	Pat McGeehan (R)	43rd	Chris Toney (R)				
4th	Bill Flanigan (R)	44th	Carl Bill Roop (R)				
5th	Shawn Fluharty (D)	46th	Jeff Campbell (R)				
7th	Chuck Sheedy (R)	47th	Ray Canterbury (R)				
8th	David Kelly (R)	48th	Thomas Clark (R)				
9th	Trenton Barnhart (R)	49th	Stanley Adkins (R)				
12th	Vernon Criss (R)	50th	Elliott Pritt (R)				
13th	Scot Heckert (R)	51st	Marshall Clay (R)				
14th	Dave Foggin (R)	53rd	Tristan Leavitt (R)				

### Election Information

Early Voting: Wednesday, Oct. 23 – Saturday, Nov. 2

General Election Day: Tuesday, November 5

Find your Polling Location: [www.GoVoteWV.com](http://www.GoVoteWV.com)

## Charleston Trades Volunteer to Restore Pinch Concession Stand



(Left) Members of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council stand with Connor Board, a West Virginia native and candidate for Eagle Scout. Trades members volunteered their time and resources to help Connor with his Eagle Scout project.

The group worked all weekend to help restore the Pinch Reunion Concession Stand in Pinch, West Virginia.

(Right) The project was completed after roughly 3 full days of work by members of the trades.

In addition to the restoration of the porch outside, new drywall was hung on the inside as well. In addition, new electrical and lighting systems were installed by Elk Valley Electric, ELM Electric, and RENEW. Nitro Construction Services provided funding for the project, and Brewer & Company of WV provided fire extinguishers for the concession stand as well.

"We appreciate the opportunity to work with this young man for the betterment of our community," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades. "This community has given us so much and we try to take every chance we can to give back."

# \$30 Million for Pre-Construction Hydrogen Hub Phase 1 Begins for ARCH2

The Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) has executed a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) to receive up to \$925 million in federally funded dollars to spearhead the development of a clean hydrogen hub in the Appalachian region.

In October 2023, ARCH2 was selected as one of seven hydrogen hubs across the nation that were selected to enter into award negotiations with the DOE for federal funding.

However, this new agreement, reached at the end of July 2024, marks a major milestone in the process, which will officially commence the first of four phases.

Phase 1 is expected to last for up to 36 months and includes the award of \$30 million in federal funding to

begin.

During Phase 1, developers will complete planning and development activities associated with pre-construction.

At the end of this phase, if ARCH2 participants reach certain benchmark standards set by the DOE, award negotiations for Phase 2 will begin.

According to the ARCH2 website, The Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) is a regional hub bringing together private industry, state and local government, academic and technology institutions, NGOs, and community organizations across the Northern Appalachian region including West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The goal of ARCH2 is to develop an inter-connected, full value chain hydrogen hub solution.

ARCH2 began in September of

2022 when the federal DOE announced the funding opportunity, encouraging groups across the country to apply for federal hydrogen hub funding.

After numerous regulatory hurdles, the final application was submitted by ARCH2 in April of 2023.

commence, members of the trades are excited about the prospect of work in this new industry.

“We are extremely proud to be a part of ARCH2 and work with our partners to bring this new hydrogen industry to West Virginia and the greater Appalachian region,” said

 **Like Us on Facebook!**  
“WV State Building Trades”

 **Follow us on Twitter!**  
@WVSBT

#### Affiliated Construction Trades

600 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301  
(304) 345-7570  
www.actwv.org



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit # 1374  
Charleston, WV 25301

## Boilermakers Charity Bike Ride for Old Man Rivers Mission



Last month, Boilermakers 667 held their annual Bike Ride to raise money for the Old Man Rivers Mission charity organization.

Also, in attendance for the ride were: Boilermakers Local 45 of Chester, VA; Boilermakers Local 154 of Pittsburgh, PA; Boilermakers Local 744 of Cleveland, OH; Boilermakers Local 105 of Piketon, OH; and the American Income Life Insurance Company of Waco, TX.

Together, the group was able to raise \$1,475 for Old Man Rivers, which will go to feeding families in need.

Later that year, in October 2023, ARCH2 was selected to enter into award negotiations with the DOE to determine the actual funding the group would receive.

Now, with phase 1 set to officially

John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

For more information on ARCH2 and the hydrogen hub funding process, log on to [www.arch2hub.com](http://www.arch2hub.com). ■



This map (above) shows the locations of all hydrogen hubs selected by the federal Department of Energy (DOE) to enter into award negotiations for federal funding. On July 31, the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) announced it had finally reached an agreement with the DOE for \$925 million in federal funding, officially beginning Phase 1 of the projects' timeline. Phase 1 includes pre-construction activities and is expected to last approximately 36 months.