



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of WASHINGTON

*Skill • Integrity • Responsibility*

September 16, 2021

## AGC MEDIA STATEMENT

The AGC of Washington is disappointed and perplexed the union is proceeding with this strike following such a robust and competitive package offer.

AGC and its signatory employers have an unwavering commitment to our community and the carpenters who work hard each day to build our communities. We believe we demonstrated this strong commitment by accepting the union's bargaining proposal, which included:

- a more than 20% total package increase over four years
- take home pay exceeding \$115,000 per year
- and a total compensation package (including benefits) exceeding \$160,000 for those working full-time hours

This package also included:

- increases in parking zone pay
- retroactive increases
- improved harassment language
- addition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a recognized holiday
- additional new program contributions

Our AGC bargaining team spent numerous hours throughout the past five months negotiating and evaluating this union offer, which also forced the team to carefully consider the ramifications of such a generous package. The team understands the economics of our area's market and the downsides of increases to our regions already high construction costs. These cost increases can push developers to other markets, increase loss of Union market share, and potentially reduce carpenter hours, which in turn reduces contributions to benefit plans that rely on consistent hours for future success.

We want to ensure every carpenter understands the latest failed tentative agreement is not immune from the issues listed above.

It is disheartening to know our signatory members and our community now face a strike initiated by the Pacific NW regional council of carpenters.

In this time of uncertainty in so many peoples' lives, it is disappointing that when we genuinely try to address the needs of the union members and accept the union proposal, the offer is rejected by the membership.