



# NECA

## WESTERN PA

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

## POLITICAL UPDATE

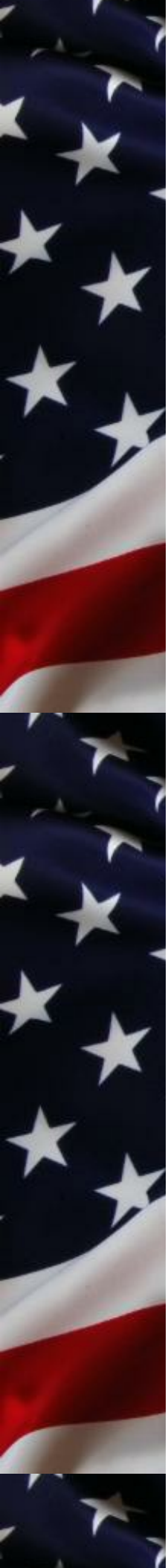
June 2017

**This Month:**

- [Prompt Pay Bill Passes PA House Commerce Committee](#)
- [Congressman GT Thompson Tours NECA-IBEW Local 5 JATC](#)
- [Record Crowd Attends NECA DC Legislative Conference](#)

### **Prompt Pay Legislation Passes PA House Commerce Committee**

After a long battle and a great deal of compromise, PA NECA and its partnering coalition of contractor organizations celebrated the passage of HB566 through the



PA House Commerce Committee by unanimous consent on Wednesday, June 7th.

WPA and Penn-Del-Jersey NECA contractors lobbied legislators to support HB566 during the joint legislative advocacy day in March, and PA NECA is hopeful that there will be a full House vote in the next few weeks.

HB566, introduced by Republican Rep. Jim Santora and Democratic Rep. Mike Driscoll, will give contractors and subcontractors the ability to stop work on a construction project if they are not paid on time by the project owner or general contractor.


Members of the committee were very interested to learn that NECA members and other subcontractors often front labor and material costs that make construction sites function. The committee shared the subcontractor coalition's concern that project owners and general contractors have taken advantage of the current flexibility to delay payments for satisfactorily completed work.

Another important consideration was the "stop work" protections already existing in numerous other states, including New Jersey, New York, Illinois, Kansas, Arizona, Texas, and California.

The group agreed that this is not fair to general contractors or subcontractors who aren't paid on time, and agreed that HB566 would establish an important protection for all contractors.

## **Congressman GT Thompson Tours NECA-IBEW Local 5 JATC**

Before heading to the WPA NECA Annual Industry Night, Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson stopped by for a tour of the NECA - IBEW Local 5 Joint Apprenticeship Training Center (JATC) to learn about how the program functions and the new building automation and advanced construction technologies being implemented.



Thank you @CongressmanGT 4 visiting @WPANECA #IBEWLocal5 #electrician #apprenticeship training center yesterday! We appreciate your support!



RETWEETS  
6

LIKES  
6



6:08 AM - 2 Jun 2017

*Penn State NECA Student Chapter President Emeritus Bret Jablonski, currently a summer intern with Lighthouse Electric, joined the tour with Congressman Thompson, who is also a PSU alumnus.*

During the tour, the Congressman received a first-person account of how the apprenticeship can change lives from JATC instructor and Hanlon Electric Company Service Manager Rachel Hienz.

Congressman Thompson, a member of the House Education & Workforce Committee, works closely on workforce development issues. He was impressed with the NECA-IBEW partnership that allows for the program to be privately financed and leaves students with no debt, all without relying on federal tax dollars.

## **Record Crowd Attends DC NECA Legislative Conference**

Over 170 representatives from NECA chapters from coast to coast congregated in Washington D.C. on April 26th and 27th to meet with federal lawmakers and discuss NECA's federal legislative priorities for the 2017-2018 congressional session.

Government Affairs Coordinator Joelle Salerno represented the Western PA Chapter of NECA in Washington this year and met with six congressional offices to bring attention to three of NECA's main legislative priorities.





*Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster  
and Government Affairs Coordinator Joelle Salerno*

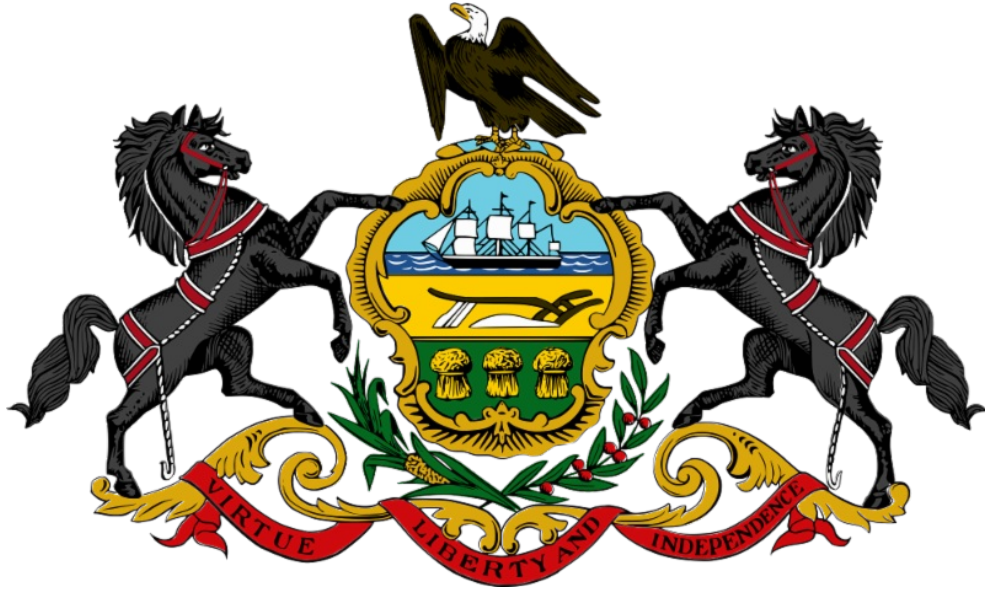
First is the need for Congress to authorize composite multi-employer pension plans. During the legislative conference, the United Mineworkers were also on Capitol Hill requesting assistance to bail out the union's failing pension plan. NECA and other union contracting organizations recognize the need for options to proactively restructure pension plans for incoming employees so pension funds can remain solvent and stable. Once authorized by Congress, composite-style plans would be a voluntary option for private pension funds to adopt for a more secure combination of the traditional defined-contribution and defined-benefit pension plans.

[Click here](#) to read the composite plan white paper.

NECA representatives also continued to stress the need for a final and complete repeal of the "Cadillac" excise tax on health insurance plans included in the Affordable Care Act, which punishes employers who provide comprehensive health care plans for their employees if the plan covers over than a certain dollar amount for individuals and families.

Finally, transportation and infrastructure investment was on everyone's minds on Capitol Hill, and NECA was in a prime position to explain how this issue affects

the electrical contractors who bring energy, lighting, and electrical systems to these projects. NECA representatives advocated for comprehensive infrastructure investment for roads, bridges, water and air transportation, and energy efficiency.



Follow us on [twitter](#)



Western PA, NECA Government Affairs

Joelle Salerno

412.722.9438

[E-mail](#) | [Website](#)

5 Hot Metal St., Suite 301, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

