

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Secured commitments from owners to use project labor agreements on three major alternative fuel projects totaling more than \$500 million.
- Worked with Labor Management Fund Advisors and their ReCap One program (a limited partnership that supports union residential construction projects) to win work for Laborers and contractors on a 100-unit single-family housing development at Western Illinois University.
- Utilized owner contacts to help sign to a Laborers' agreement an out-of-state, non-union contractor working on a major energy project.



PHOTO COURTESY ILLINOIS LECET

*Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich signs the state's Employee Classification Act as bill supporters look on. Left to right, directly behind the Governor, are: LIUNA Vice President, Assistant to the General President, and Midwest Regional Manager Edward M. Smith; Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan; AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney; and Illinois State Senator Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson.*

### ILLINOIS LECET

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## ILLINOIS LECET

*Illinois LECET works closely with a network of three other LECETs: the Great Plains Laborers' District Council LECET; the Southern and Central Illinois Laborers' District Council LECET; and the Twelve Counties Southwestern Illinois Laborers' District Council LECET.*

### Illinois Laborers Win Passage of Misclassification Bill

Illinois LECET helped Laborers and their signatory contractors win a victory in the fight against employee misclassification by playing a critical role in the passage of Illinois' new Employee Classification Act (ECA). Applying to all public and private construction in the state of Illinois, the ECA presumes all workers to be employees, requires employers to prove that an independent contractor is not an employee, imposes stiff fines for violations, and makes willful misclassification a criminal offense. The bill also enables anyone harmed by misclassification to bring a complaint against a contractor, including misclassified employees, labor unions, and contractors who lost a bid.

During the campaign for the legislation, Illinois LECET and Chicago Area LECET provided a critical labor-management perspective that ultimately made the difference between passage and failure. Concerned that the bill not sweep up legitimate subcontractors and the contractors who employ them, the two LECET funds and LIUNA's Midwest Regional Office developed language to better clarify the statute's definition of employees and independent contractors. The coalition pushing for the bill declined to include this language in the first version, and the bill failed to pass. The second version of the bill included this language, and it passed easily.

The new law took effect on January 1, 2008, and Illinois LECET and the three local LECET funds with which it works will now turn their attention to monitoring compliance.