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Laborers' and UFCW Endorse Bernero for Governor

Lansing, MICH. – The Michigan Laborers' District Council and the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876 and 951 have officially announced their endorsement of Lansing Mayor and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Virg Bernero for governor.

"Virg Bernero's strong record of supporting our state's labor organizations make him the clear choice to lead our state," said Gary Jorgensen, business manager of the Michigan Laborers' District Council. "Bernero's traditional Democratic values and dedication to our building and construction trades is unmatched by any other gubernatorial candidate. His message and plan to put Michigan and our construction workers back to work making our bridges safe, building our roads and maintaining our infrastructure has resonated with our members, and we're ready to do everything possible to ensure Virg Bernero, is victorious in both August and November."

These endorsements add to the resounding union support Bernero has gained, including the endorsement of the Michigan Education Association (MEA), the American Federation of Teachers Michigan (AFT Michigan), the Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) and the Michigan AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO represents more than 600,000 active and retired members in 59 unions throughout Michigan, including the United Auto Workers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

"Today's endorsements add to the overwhelming support I've received from unions across Michigan. I've gained the support of our state's largest labor organizations representing thousands of workers who are committed to my campaign, furthering the reach of our grassroots operation," said Bernero. "We've got grassroots supporters across the state, but these endorsements further highlight my absolute commitment to putting Michigan workers first."

The Michigan Laborers' District Council is an affiliation of seven Laborers' Local Unions representing 12,000 active and retired Construction Laborers in Michigan and is affiliated with Michigan's building trades. They are an affiliation of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO (LIUNA), which represents 800,000 members.

"We need a strong candidate for governor, not only one who will fight for workers, but who will be able to fight and win against the Republican candidate," said Roger Robinson, president of UFCW Local 876. "Virg Bernero is that candidate. He has a plan to put Michigan back to work, is passionate and dedicated to Michigan's workers and can stand up against any candidate the Republicans nominate."

UFCW Local 876 represents more than 40,000 workers and the UFCW Local 951 represents more than 28,000 employees. UFCW members work at grocery, pharmacy, meat packing and processing plants, manufacturing plants, nursing homes and numerous other commercial work sites.

“When we look at candidates, the union determines which candidates will fight for workers and their families,” said Marv Russow, president of UFCW Local 951. “This is going to be an extremely important election for Michigan workers, whose very existence depends on political leaders who can help bring the state out of its economic slump, bring good jobs to the state and ensure that the good union jobs continue to be protected.”

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