



Members of Laborers Local 320 stage a successful one-day strike Feb. 12 at the CertainTeed asphalt roof shingle factory in Portland.

Laborers Local 320 settles contract at CertainTeed after one-day strike

Shinglemaker improves offer after walkout

Building material manufacturer CertainTeed reached agreement on a new union contract at its Portland asphalt roof shingle factory — after a one-day strike by 45 members of Laborers Local 320.

Before the Feb. 12 strike, the company, a subsidiary of French multinational Saint-Gobain, was insisting that workers drop the union-affiliated health insurance trust and instead enroll in a company-sponsored self-insured plan. The union plan has a \$200 annual deductible, while the company plan carries a \$2,500 deductible; even after a proposed \$800 annual contribution to an employee health savings account, that would have made health care much less affordable. Wages at the factory range from about \$16 an hour for new hires to as high as \$33.40 for experienced mechanics, and the average is about \$21 an hour.

Also, eight years ago, explains Local 320 Business Manager Dave Tischer, CertainTeed ended contributions to the traditional defined benefit pension plan, and asked employees to enroll in its 401(k) plan instead, with an under-

standing that the company would later match employee contributions. But in bargaining this year, company negotiators balked at offering the match.

When the previous three-year contract expired, the union gave 10-day strike notice, and the company reacted: It began to ship product out to a Seattle warehouse in preparation for a strike. The strike halted that.

Workers walked out at 10 a.m., and maintained pickets outside the factory at 6350 NW Front Ave. Tischer said participation was 100 percent. Pickets drew honks of support from passersby on busy Front Avenue, and at 5:20 p.m., labor and management shook hands on a new company offer, with even better terms than the union's proposal had contained before the strike. Ratification was unanimous.

Wages will increase 7.5 percent over the course of the new five-year contract. The company will match workers' 401(k) contributions up to 4 percent of salary. And they get to keep the union-affiliated health plan.

Merkley, Wyden challenge plan to end Saturday mail delivery

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon's U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden joined 22 other senators in challenging the postmaster general's authority to discontinue Saturday mail delivery later this year without congressional approval.

In a letter to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe, the senators acknowledge the financial challenges the Postal Service is facing and urged him to work with Congress to address the problems through bipartisan reform, such as the Senate legislation passed last year.

They also pointed out that a shift to five-day service could lead to further declines in mail volume and revenues, worsening the U.S. Postal Service's overall condition.

Merkley and Wyden were joined by Senators Tom Udall, Tom Harkin, Al Franken, Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow, Mark Begich, Martin Heinrich, Jon Tester, Sherrod Brown, Max Baucus, Bernie Sanders, Jeanne Shaheen, Mazie Hirono, Joe Manchin, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Michael Bennet, Mark Udall, Brian Schatz and Heidi Heitkamp in the letter to the postmaster.

They noted that recently the Postal Service itself has recognized it lacks the power to terminate six-day service.

"As recently as last year, the Postal Service did not believe it had the authority to end six-day delivery without legislative action by Congress. For example, in the USPS's 'Plan for Profitability,' re-

leased on February 6, 2012, savings for five-day delivery were categorized under the heading of 'legislative initiatives,'" they wrote.

"Furthermore, you personally delivered testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on September 6, 2011 where you noted that 'Congress must act ... [to] allow the Postal Service the authority to determine delivery frequency.'"

They also pointed out the move is a violation of existing law under the Continuing Appropriations Resolution of 2012. "[W]e believe your proposal does not comply with the existing statutory requirement to continue six-day delivery and rural delivery mail services at no less than the 1983 levels."

Such a move would impact 70,000 jobs and negatively affect the rural communities they represent.

"With the national unemployment rate at 7.8 percent, moving to five-day delivery will hurt middle class families," they said.

Save Our Postal Service rally March 17 in Portland

A Save Our Postal Service national day of action will take place on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17 — the anniversary of the great postal strike of 1970. In Portland, supporters will gather at Pioneer Square starting at 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.savethepostoffice.com.



TEETH LOVE GETTING MORE.

MORE CARE

- General services plus dentures, orthodontics, implants, oral surgery, and digital X-rays¹

MORE VALUE

- All major insurance plans accepted
- Union members save 40% or more on all your dental needs

MORE CONVENIENCE

- With 10 offices, we're easy to find
- Same day emergency care

Expect more. Get more.

SPECIAL OFFERS

\$100 OFF

DENTAL SERVICES²

NO-CHARGE CONSULTATION

\$500 OFF

BRACES³

10 Convenient locations to serve you.

BEAVERTON 4655 SW Griffith Dr.	SALEM 831 Lancaster Mall Dr. N.E.
GRANTS PASS 1021 NE 6th St.	WILSONVILLE 25700 SW Argyle Ave. Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.
GRESHAM 443 NW Burnside Rd.	VANCOUVER, WA Fisher's Landing 3250 S.E. 164th Ave. Austin Phoenix, D.D.S., M.S. Peter Vu, D.M.D.
HILLSBORO 7206 N.E. Cornell Rd.	Salmon Creek 2101 N.E. 129th St. Austin Phoenix, D.D.S., M.S. Jeff Pearson, D.M.D. Maliki Patterson, D.D.S.
MILWAUKIE 17186 SE McLoughlin Blvd.	Stirewalt, P.C.
PORTLAND 3580 SE 82nd Ave.	

1. 877.34 BRIGHT NOW
1.877.342.7444

www.brightnow.com

Stay Connected



Bright Now! Dental

¹ Services vary by office. ² Offer valid for every family member in same residence, but only valid once per person (\$500 per person minimum required for \$100 discount). Cannot be combined with other discounts. Offer is for patients not using insurance. Not redeemable for cash or credit. ³ Reg. Price \$5,418. Valid on new full orthodontic cases only does not include records and retainers. Valid for patients not using insurance. Offers are subject to change and expire on 12/31/12. © 2012 Smile Brands Inc. All rights reserved.

Q Quest Investment Management

Serving Multi-Employer Trusts
for over 27 Years

Cam Johnson Greg Sherwood
Jon Bettendorf Monte Johnson
Doug Goebel Adrian Hamilton

One SW Columbia Street, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97258
503.221.0158 ■ www.QuestInvestment.com