



# International Brotherhood of Boilermakers • Iron Ship Builders • Blacksmiths • Forgers & Helpers

## LOCAL LODGE 549

**Randy Thomas**

Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer

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Board members,

Thank you for hearing my experience. My name is Dominic Lucero. I represent over 800 members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. I serve as an executive board member, Chair of the New Endeavors Research and Development committee, or NERD for short. And most important, I work as a full-time apprenticeship instructor, teaching the future minds of California. Our apprenticeship is the equivalent to an associate degree in mechanical engineering, is state approved, and counts towards college credit.

I grew up in the impoverished South Side of Pittsburg Pennsylvania in the 90's. I had no opportunity for a college education, to buy a home, or to raise my children in a different town than I was raised in as was customary for many generations before me. The Boilermakers gave me that opportunity. I left Pennsylvania, bought a home when I was 28, and have two children that do not have to know the environment I was raised in, all because of organized labor.

I am in full support of the technologies; I am a self-proclaimed nerd and have been immersed in these technologies from hydrogen, biomethane, biochar, and direct air capture when they were considered tin foil hat stuff. I support the direction or CARB is going but cannot support the draft scope.

How can we be sure that the private companies that will build California's new infrastructure, will not hire low skilled short-term workers with no real future. Our Californians that work in organized labor often live in disadvantaged communities and will left behind if organized trades are not written into the framework of this plan.

Why is there no mention of a highly skilled workforce as in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act? Why is there no mention of apprenticeship programs as in the proposed California Senate Bill 18 on green hydrogen?

Our California organized trades provide higher education for working class people with no college debt and a long-term career, not a one-time job, of which there is a big difference. The public often thinks Boilermakers, Pipefitters, and Iron Workers can just be re-trained to install solar panels for close to minimum wage, we would not ask a car mechanic to be a surgeon or vice versa. Many of us have spent a lifetime to learn our craft. The workers of solar companies often come to our apprenticeship programs looking for a better future and protection from these companies. We are the educated, hardworking, highly skilled Californians that have been building our infrastructure throughout our state's history. We want to help and support, but we must be unmistakably included in the plans moving forward towards a just and equitable future.

Thank you,

Dominic Lucero  
Executive Board/ New Endeavors Committee Chair  
Apprenticeship Instructor