



## POLITICAL UPDATE

September 2016

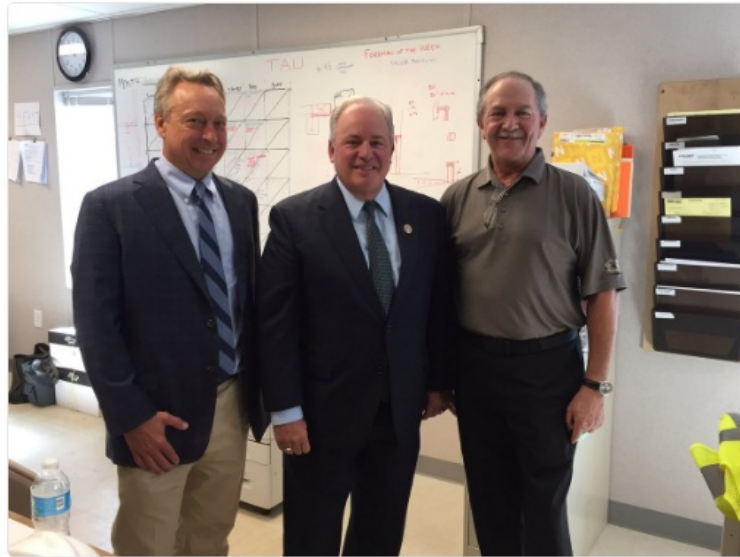
### This Month's Headlines:

- [Congressman Doyle Visits Miller Electric Job Site on Pittsburgh's North Side](#)
- [Tim Schultheis Testifies for WPA NECA at PA Pipeline Infrastructure Hearing](#)
- [WPA Attends NECA Transportation Event at GOP National Convention](#)



WPANECA GovtAffairs @WPANECAGovAffrs · Aug 23

Thank you @USRepMikeDoyle for visiting @WPANECA member Miller Electric Construction site on #Pittsburgh #Northside



## Congressman Doyle Visits Miller Electric Job Site on Pittsburgh's North Side

Western PA members are inviting elected officials to tour their job sites this summer to see the work that NECA contractors do on the ground. Bill Miller and Miller Electric Construction (MEC) hosted the first of these visits with Congressman Mike Doyle (D-Forest Hills) at their Heinz Lofts apartment project on the North Side.

Located in a former Heinz factory building, which is now designated a historic landmark, the 151 loft apartments overlook the Allegheny River in a modern industrial style, featuring exposed steel beams and original exterior windows overlooking the downtown skyline.

Congressman Doyle toured the four-story complex, led by Simon Reichbaum of MEC and Bill Charles of Mascaro Construction, along with architectural and engineering designers and IBEW crew members.

Following the tour, Congressman Doyle sat down with NECA and MEC representatives to discuss NECA's federal legislative priorities, including [energy infrastructure](#) and policy legislation, authorizing [composite multi-employer pension plans](#), and repealing the [ACA Cadillac Tax](#).

The Congressman was very receptive to the needs of NECA contractors and their employees. He is keeping tabs on an energy policy overhaul that is being considered by House and Senate Conference Committee, and he is a cosponsor of H.R. 2050, a NECA-supported bill to repeal the Cadillac Tax.

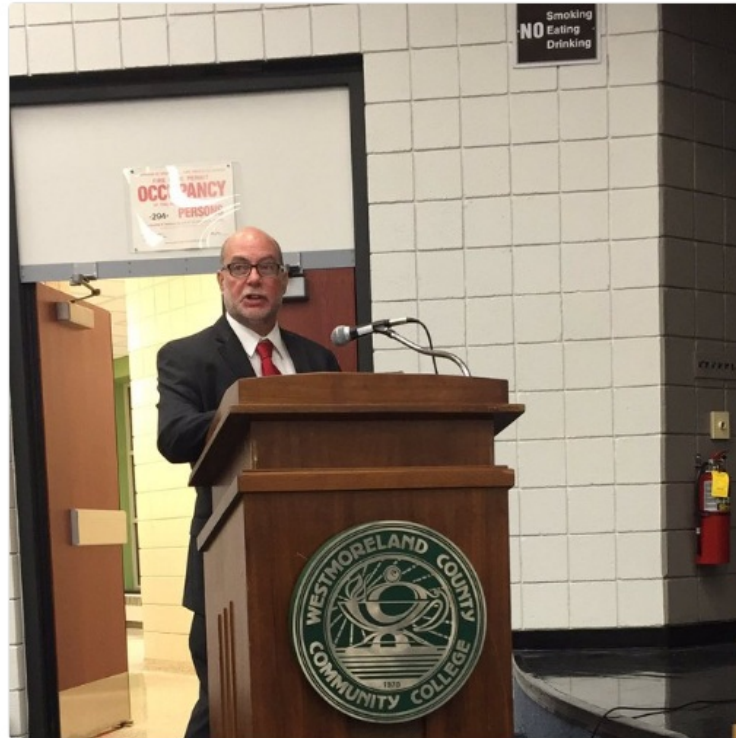
Visits with Members of Congress in their districts are an invaluable way to connect the important services contractors perform to the policy issues NECA advocates in Washington. Each visit also counts as six points towards the annual NECA Chairman's Challenge.

Please contact Joelle if you are interested in hosting elected officials at your job site in the future.



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.@WPANECA member Tim Schultheis testified today @ #PADEP hearing 2 support safe #energyinfrastructure & #MarinerEast 2



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## Tim Schultheis Testifies for WPA NECA at PA Pipeline Infrastructure Hearing

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a series of public hearings throughout the state over the past month to hear from individuals and interested parties affected by the proposed Mariner East 2 pipeline project that would stretch from Washington County to Delaware County.

Dozens of union members and union construction representatives attended the Southwestern PA meeting, held at Westmoreland County Community College on August 18th, to speak or show support for the project and the economic benefits that come with safely-installed energy infrastructure projects.

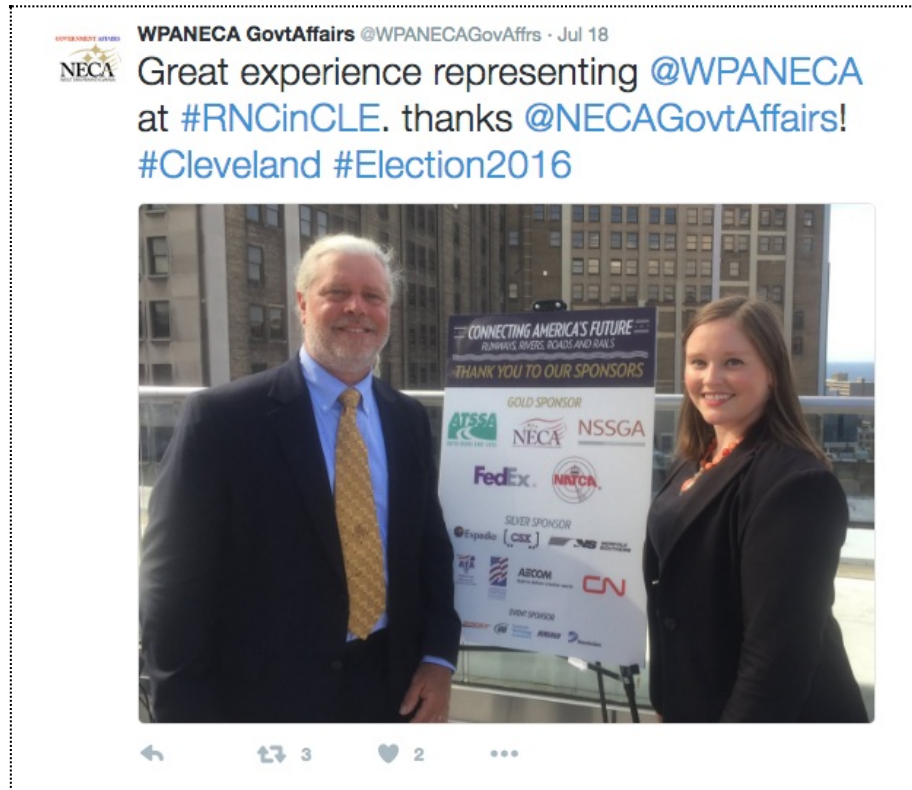
State Senator Guy Reschenthaler (R-Mt. Lebanon) and State Representative Eli Evankovich (R-Murrysville), along with representatives of the IBEW, Operating Engineers, and Pipliners unions; scientists; engineers; and local residents all turned out to show support for the project and urged the DEP to approve the environmental permits needed to proceed.

Representing Western PA NECA, [Tim Schultheis spoke](#) for three minutes about the benefits of the project, stating, "The project could create 30,000 direct and indirect jobs during the construction phase and approximately 300 to 400 permanent positions throughout Pennsylvania once it is built. Moreover, the Mariner East 2 pipeline will enable greater access to domestically produced natural gas liquids (NGLs) for manufacturers and businesses throughout the region, creating a catalyst for industrial activity throughout the entire Northeast. NGLs have a wide range of uses --- from the production of plastics and petrochemicals to residential and commercial heating."

Opponents at the meeting cited concerns about certain portions of Sunoco's environmental permit applications that are allegedly incomplete, as well as potential environmental hazards and eminent domain conflicts.

Supporters reminded the DEP panel that extensive research shows pipelines

are the safest method of transportation for natural gas liquids, and that union laborers are the most highly trained and skilled craftsmen available to ensure the projects are performed to the utmost safety and environmental standards.



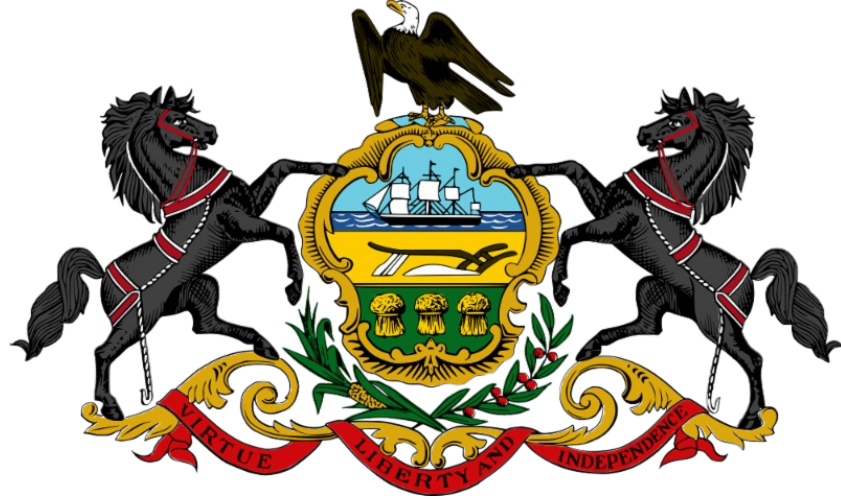
### ***WPA Attends NECA Transportation Event at GOP National Convention***

Lighthouse Electric's Mark Mikec and Ryan Bandel accompanied Joelle Salerno to a transportation policy event co-hosted by National NECA at July's Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

The event, titled "Connecting America's Future: Runways, Rivers, Roads, and Rails", hosted a multitude of elected officials. The Western PA Chapter's representatives were able to speak with Western PA Congressmen Bill Shuster (PA-09) and Keith Rothfus (PA-12), as well as Eastern PA Congressman Tom Marino (PA-10) and a number of political staff members on hand.

The Western PA and Greater Cleveland NECA chapters were both in attendance to get to know elected officials and build relationships that will allow member contractors to share the day-to-day effects of federal infrastructure policies.

Congressman Shuster, Chairman of the influential House Transportation Committee, works closely with National NECA's government affairs team to advance business-friendly energy, transportation, and waterway infrastructure policy. [Click here](#) for NECA's breakdown of infrastructure issues.



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