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**Support Local Wage Theft Ordinances**

**WHEREAS:** Wage theft is the largest form of theft in the United States with more than \$15 billion stolen from workers every year; and

**WHEREAS:** All workers, particularly those working on publicly-funded projects, contracts, and for tax-abated entities, should be paid in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws; and

**WHEREAS:** The Ohio Attorney General's Office has previously estimated that more than 90,000 Ohio workers were illegally misclassified as independent contractors when they actually were employees, resulting in a cost to Ohio state and local government of hundreds of millions of dollars in lost unemployment compensation, workers' compensations premiums, and state and local income taxes; and

**WHEREAS:** When employers in our municipalities and State commit this type of wage theft or payroll fraud, their unlawful activity costs the local and state government income tax revenue, negatively impacting our communities' ability to pay for basic services; and

**WHEREAS:** Payroll fraud refers to a business concealing its true tax liability or other financial liability to a government agency, by misclassifying employees or paying for business transactions in cash without keeping appropriate records; and

**WHEREAS:** Wage theft means not properly paying workers for all work performed, paying less than the minimum wage, paying less than the prevailing wage, not paying for all hours worked, or failing to pay overtime compensation, in violation of federal, state, or local law; and,

**WHEREAS:** The labor movement wants to protect workers and law-abiding businesses from bad-acting employers that misclassify employees as independent contractors; and

**WHEREAS:** Local governments should take all possible action to recover any benefit or incentive, including foregone tax revenue, provided to businesses if those businesses, their contractors, subcontractors, lessees, tenants or occupants are found to have committed wage theft or payroll fraud.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Ohio AFL-CIO supports all efforts to combat wage theft through the passage of local Wage Theft Ordinances that aim to hold employers accountable, recuperate lost tax revenue, and ensure that workers are paid for the wages they have earned.

*Submitted by: The Central Ohio Labor Council*