

Top Message Points

- 1. Each of us worked hard to earn our credentials. IRAPs will flood the industry with cheap, unearned certs, devaluing ours in comparison.**
- 2. Nonunion contractors can pay IRAP students minimum wage, not apprentice scale. IRAPs will drive down wages.**
- 3. Nonunion contractors will use construction IRAPs to undercut us on bids and take our work.**

Talking Points

- 1. Unlike registered apprenticeship programs, there are no universally respected criteria in place to evaluate the skills or shortcomings of credentials issued under the IRAP system. This muddies the water and dilutes the strength of certifications and upgrades that set union ironworkers apart from the competition.**
- 2. In addition to training the best ironworkers in the business, our union's training programs are designed to produce the safest workplaces around. IRAPs are not bound by the same standards for safety training.**
- 3. IRAPs were designed for industries where a registered training program doesn't already exist or – where one worker's inexperience doesn't risk putting his or her coworkers in a life or death situation. These loosened standards have no place in the construction industry.**
- 4. Stringent safety standards are essential in the construction industry. The best way to ensure workers are safe on the job is to continuously train on the proper precautions, equipment and first aid treatment over the course of a registered apprenticeship program.**
- 5. Registered apprenticeship programs like the Iron Workers' training program are the best way to prepare for a career in the construction industry. Not only are apprentices exposed to hands on training and classroom instruction, but they receive input from some of our industry's most responsible business leaders.**