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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES OF MASSACHUSETTS REACHES AGREEMENT WITH OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 98

Springfield, MA- The Labor Relations Division (LRD) of the Construction Industries of Massachusetts (CIM) today announced that, after six months of intense negotiations, they have come to terms with the Operating Engineers Local 98 on a new three year agreement.

“For nearly half a century, CIM and Local 98 have enjoyed a positive working relationship,” explained Peter Bennett, who serves as attorney and spokesperson for CIM. “While we had significant and disparate issues to address in these negotiations, we worked hard to reach an agreement that ensures our members remain strong and competitive in the region.”

The key components of the agreement are as follows:

1. The Operating Engineers will receive a general wage and benefit increase of \$4.85 to be divided over the life of the contract. This package is approximately 3% per year over current wages and benefits. A Class 1 operator will have a wage and benefit package exceeding \$56.00/hour.
2. A guaranteed 40-hour workweek is suspended from December 1 – March 31 for work classification outside Master Mechanic and Crane Operator.
3. Creation of a new crane operator premium, which adds approximately another 11% to the general wage and benefit increase.
4. Creation of a study group comprised of no more than six individuals (three appointed by Local 98 and three appointed by CIM) to examine the necessity of manning an oiler on cranes under 100 tons.

“Both sides listened to the needs of the other and made the hard compromises necessary to reach a deal that works for both parties,” stated Bennett. “Our members look forward to getting back to work building the schools, bridges, and other projects that are so vital to this region’s future.”

CIM, an organization that represents numerous heavy and highway-building contractors throughout New England and negotiates area-wide collective bargaining agreements on behalf of its members with the Operating Engineers, Laborers, Carpenters and Teamsters unions. These contracts frequently set the terms followed by many other contractors in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. The LRD negotiated this agreement on behalf of more than nineteen of its member companies.

For further information, contact:

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