



**For Immediate Release**

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**Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 & Sheet Metal Contractors Association  
Host Training Center Tour with U.S. Senator Bob Casey**

**Philadelphia, PA (September 10, 2010)** – Today, the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 and the Sheet Metal Contractors Association showcased their investment in tomorrow's workers by hosting a tour of their unique and innovative Philadelphia training center.

The center, located on Columbus Boulevard in Philadelphia, focuses on training skilled craftsmen and craftswomen to build efficient and energy-saving manufacturing facilities. For example, the facility boasts innovative fume hood technology, which highlights areas where businesses can reduce energy costs – and the cost of research and production.

Specifically, the training facility supports the skilled workers and innovative technologies needed to sustain the vibrant, regional bioscience industry. The biopharmaceutical industry is the main economic driver in the Greater Philadelphia Region – and provides new and ground-breaking cures worldwide. If the U.S. is to remain competitive, it is imperative that bioscience clusters, such as Pennsylvania and Greater Philadelphia, continue to be leaders in this field.

Recognizing these important factors, U.S. Senator Bob Casey and representatives from the region's bioscience community were in attendance to tour the facility and learn more about this critical regional investment.

"The regional life science cluster provides enormous economic value – including over 300,000 jobs and \$20 billion in total earnings - driving roughly 15 percent of all economic activity in the region," stated U.S. Senator Bob Casey. "Because of this, I applaud the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 for their efforts in helping to sustain the highly skilled workforce needed to support the life science industry."

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In order to help efforts to encourage medical innovation, trade unions regionally and from around the country have spent well over \$800 million teaching these latest techniques and skills to workers. These efforts support the life sciences by driving innovation in green technologies and cost-savings for the biopharmaceutical industry.

“New innovations require new advances in construction technologies,” stated Joseph Sellers, Jr. President and Business Manager of Local 19. We are proud to be able to provide the dedicated, highly-skilled workforce needed to support this bioscience-rich region”

The Sheet Metal Contractors Association and Local 19, a local affiliate of the Sheet Metal Workers’ International Association, have joined forces on an industry initiative to educate the construction, business, school and government sectors on the importance of improving indoor air quality while striving to reduce wasteful energy in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

The goals of the joint initiative are to help stimulate the Philadelphia and Delaware Valley construction industry and create more green jobs, as well as help improve the quality of life in the region.

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