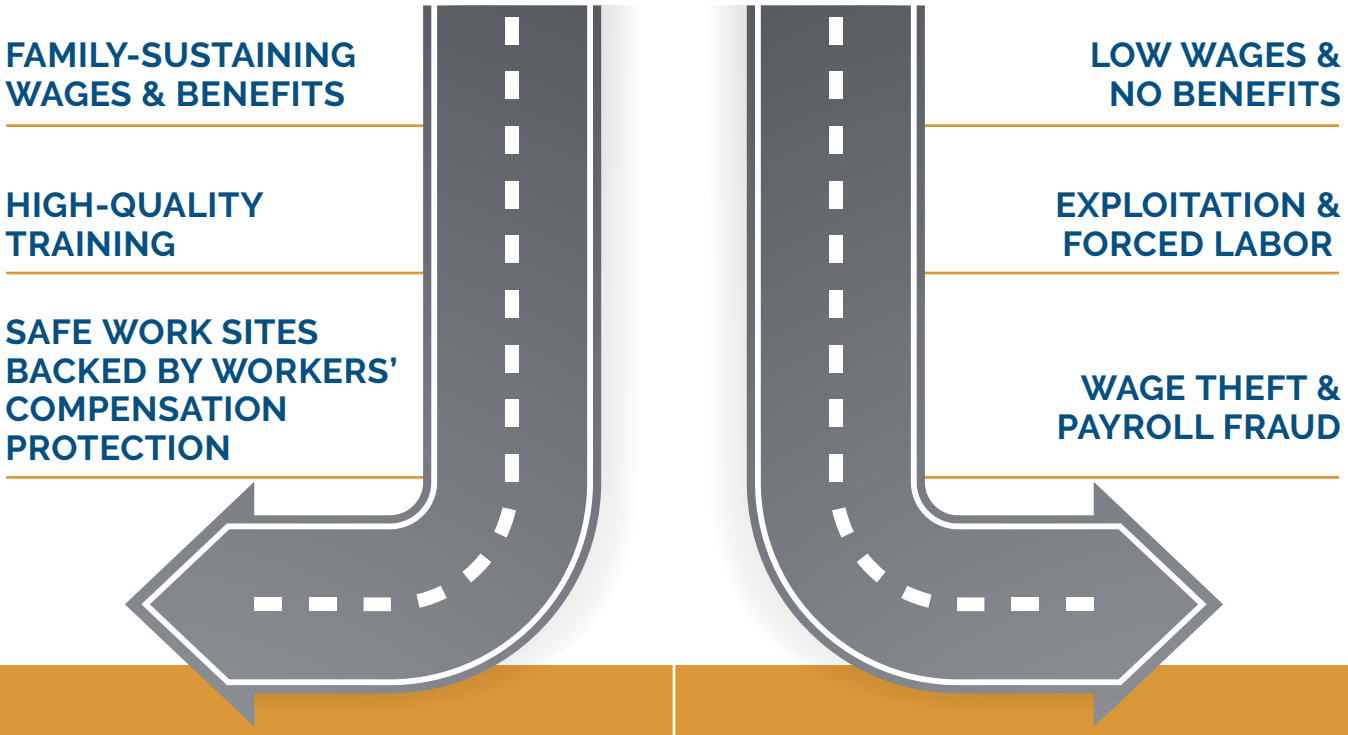
CARPENTER CONTRACTOR TRUST®

PROTECTED VS. UNPROTECTED
WHY STRONG CONSTRUCTION UNIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR A THRIVING ECONOMY

U.S. construction industry workers often have two career paths with strikingly different working conditions:



PROTECTED LABOR

Offers a viable career path to the middle class

UNPROTECTED LABOR

Career instability with often dishonest labor practices in the United States

Unfortunately, the decline in unionization over the years means that thousands of construction workers have no choice but to take the unprotected path. In 1971, 42% of construction workers were union members; by 2019 only 12.6% of construction workers were unionized.

When workers do not earn enough money to meet their basic needs, they often turn to safety net programs to make up the difference. This, in turn, costs the states, the federal government, and taxpayers almost $28 billion per year.

Utilizing union labor is the best way to protect workers against exploitative labor practices, increase tax revenues and decrease human and economic costs imposed by wage theft and forced labor.

Source: https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/the-public-cost-of-low-wage-jobs-in-the-us-construction-industry/

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