

# The Voice of the Merit Shop



## ABC PA's legislative and regulatory agenda is guided by three key principles:

- Participating in legislative and regulatory processes
- Investing in workforce development
- Advancing the merit shop philosophy

## Legislative Issues Overview

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# Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

## *The Voice of the Merit Shop*

ABC PA is statewide association of ABC, a national construction industry trade association representing nearly 21,000 members. Founded on the **merit shop philosophy**, ABC and its 68 chapters help members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically, profitably and for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. ABC's membership represents all specialties within the U.S. construction industry and is comprised primarily of firms that perform work in the institutional, industrial, and commercial sectors.

To learn more about ABC's history, goals, and accomplishments, visit [abc.org](http://abc.org).

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## Key Priority Issues:

### Parity for Apprentice-to-Journeyman Ratios

Pennsylvania regulations require registered non-union apprenticeship programs to have four journeymen per apprentice, across all trades and industry occupations. On the other hand, registered union program ratios are defined by collective bargaining agreements, which vary by trade and are typically lower than a 4-to-1. The discriminatory rules put the merit shop at a competitive disadvantage and needlessly limit opportunities for apprentices trying to enter high-demand trades.

ABC of Pennsylvania has been a key player in spotlighting the discriminatory ratio rules. ABC-supported legislation has been introduced to put union and non-union apprenticeship programs on equal footing. ABC will continue advocating for solutions that update industry standards, level the playing field, and open doors for the next generation of apprentices.

### Ending Construction Contract Indemnification

Legislation has been introduced that would make all contractual parties responsible for their own negligence by prohibiting the enforceability of indemnification clauses in construction contracts. Nationally, 45 states enacted similar laws. ABC of Pennsylvania is part of a coalition supporting and advocating for this legislation.

### COVID-19 Limited Civil Liability Protection

ABC of Pennsylvania is part of a broad-based business coalition that supports limited, targeted, and timely COVID-19 civil liability protections at the state and federal levels. While the governor and other special interest groups continue to oppose this policy, ABC of Pennsylvania will continue to support measures that protect our members from frivolous lawsuits.

### Marcellus Shale Tax Policy

In 2012, Pennsylvania enacted an "impact fee" on natural gas wells. Since that time, there has been a push to enact an additional "severance tax" on natural gas extraction that would fund various government programs. Due to the impact such a tax would have on the industry and supply chains, including commercial construction, ABC of Pennsylvania is part of a coalition opposed to a severance tax. We believe the natural gas industry has created thousands of family sustaining jobs, driven billions of dollars in investments, provided affordable energy to business, and has been an essential part of the state's economy.

#### About ABC of Pennsylvania:



**Mission Statement:** To promote and protect the merit shop philosophy as united ABC chapters.

ABC of Pennsylvania is a statewide association covering the four regional ABC chapters incorporated in the commonwealth. The association represents the interests of nearly 1,400 professionals within the commercial construction industry on public policy matters in Harrisburg.

The board of directors consists of two members per chapter, meeting on a quarterly basis to discuss issues, develop position statements, and shape programming that focuses on ABC's mission and strategic goals.

[abcpa.org](http://abcpa.org)

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Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter  
Keystone Chapter  
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