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## Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 396 Receives State Appalachian Development Grant

Today Jason Wilson, director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia, along with Congressman Bill Johnson, Congressman Tim Ryan, and local officials announced a grant for \$150,000 to the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 396. The money is from the State Appalachian Development Grant Program to train workers for jobs related to the Marcellus and Utica Shale operations.

"This is a great example of what can happen when we work together toward a common goal - increasing job opportunities for Ohio's Appalachian region," said Jason Wilson, director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia.

The grant will be used to train a new class of apprentices and displaced welders in pipeline construction and downhill welding techniques. The pipe welders will be trained at the Local 396 facility in Boardman. Local 396 will train 40 new welders in the next year.

"This is great news for the Mahoning Valley and Eastern Ohio. Ensuring our workforce is trained and ready to go is not a partisan issue, rather, it is an issue of jobs. I know the team here at 396 will put this award to great use," said Congressman Bill Johnson.

"This grant is a testament to the immense opportunities that the natural gas industry is providing for our region. This is proof of what can be achieved when we are able to put partisan differences aside and work together," said Congressman Ryan. "I applaud the Plumbers & Pipefitters for securing these funds and taking it upon themselves to ensure that our local workforce is prepared to reap the benefits from this growing industry."

"The opportunity to train displaced and developmental welders is here," said Marty Loney, of Local 396. "Today we realize those opportunities."

The State Appalachian Development Grants are for projects that increase job opportunities in the Appalachian region as well as improving the community infrastructure to encourage economic development.

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