The legislative session started out rather busy, but it wasn’t with the over abundance of legislation aimed at labor like last year. I believe it’s mostly due to the hard work done last fall making phone calls and canvassing to support the right people being elected into the State House and Senate where we now have a majority of Democrats. We’ve provided testimony against the “Right to Work” bill and successfully got it tabled indefinitely in the House Committee hearing, killing it again this year. We’ve also been in committee hearings to support our brothers at the SMART local for the railroad bill requiring two people on freight trains. It was great to hear one of the Democrats who provided comments in that hearing address one of the Republicans on the committee for their stand on not wanting to be involved in what should be part of a collective bargaining piece of a contract when, the day before, the republican member from the house brought forward the right to work bill.

We’re also working with the AFL-CIO to monitor other legislation, one of which is related to broadband infrastructure installation. SB19-107 has been introduced and is assigned to committee, with no date set for hearings to begin. We’re also asking for feedback from our brothers at IBEW on this bill as it could affect their members as well. Another important bill is SB19-085, The Equal Pay For Equal Work Act. These bills are being monitored closely by the AFL-CIO.

While we’re monitoring legislation, we’re also keeping an eye on legislators we helped get elected. It is good to see that freshman House member, Tom Sullivan, has been a co-sponsor of the railroad bill mentioned earlier and is actively engaged as a new member on a lot of other legislation. We’ll be holding them all accountable, nobody gets a free pass.

CWA members recently participated in the AFL-CIO’s Labor Lobby Corp. Members from locals 7750, 7777, and 7702 were introduced to the legislative process, met their representatives, and sat in on house and senate committee meetings.

In solidarity,

Anthony Scorzo
Legislative Committee Chair

Brian Buyaki
Legislative Committee Co-Chair