Josh Shomate

John Keiber had to attend ~~the~~ Union membership meeting; so I am stepping in for him

Boilermakers Local 11

My name is Josh Shomate and I am a Montana resident. As a recent college graduate in 2007 and a seasonal employee for the United States Forest Service, I am see the difficulties in finding a good, sustainable job able to keep up with the cost of living

My government job is employment I enjoy. However, gaining full time employment and a middle class income is quite competitive, and will require a significant portion of a career. The continually growing gap between the cost of living and workers wages leads to financial pressure where I must look for employment else where.

Growing up in Colstrip, in a union Boilermaker family, ~~where my father worked as a union tradesman~~, I saw the opportunities trade unions provide. ~~I am now seeking these opportunities~~, specifically trade apprenticeship programs. Fortunately, I have found that opportunity with the Local 11 Boilermakers ~~when they put me on their pre-apprentice list February of 2010.~~

In the last year, with periods of unemployment, the Boilermakers have provided over 300 hours of free, specialists training in their field of work. Now, I am a competitive candidate ~~ready for selection into their apprenticeship program~~. The skills I am learning ~~and~~ leading to a middle class job that can keep up with the cost of living

Overall, I think it will be in Montana's best interest to create good, sustainable, middle class jobs, and the opportunities the trade unions provide will be of