



April 13, 2020

Sean McGarvey  
*President*

Brent Booker  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

Newton B. Jones  
*Boilermakers*

Kinsey M. Robinson  
*Roofers*

James P. Hoffa  
*Teamsters*

Terry O'Sullivan  
*LIUNA*

Frank J. Christensen  
*Elevator Constructors*

Kenneth E. Rigmaiden  
*Painters and Allied Trades*

James T. Callahan  
*Operating Engineers*

Joseph Sellers, Jr.  
*SMART*

Lonnie R. Stephenson  
*IBEW*

Eric M. Dean  
*Ironworkers*

James P. McCourt  
*Insulators*

Daniel E. Stepano  
*Plasterers' and  
Cement Masons'*

Mark McManus  
*UA*

Timothy J. Driscoll  
*BAC*

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, and  
Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of millions of members of the undersigned organizations, we want to first thank you all for your rapid response to the unfolding public health, economic and financial crisis, caused by the pandemic of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"). The first three pieces of legislation you passed were designed to deal with the immediate problems at hand. They are an important first step toward economic stimulus and stabilization and provide important relief to workers and employers throughout the country.

The mandated shutdown of large parts of our economy by federal, state, and local governments has and will continue to put millions of hard-working Americans out of work, decimating the finances of workers, families, and their employers.

It is now time to turn to protecting our economy and our citizens going forward as we fight to get this scourge under control. As part of any new legislation, we ask you to address the critical health and pension issues of America's hard-working men, women, and retirees.

### **Healthcare**

There is an absolute necessity and urgency during this uncontrolled pandemic to ensure that workers do not lose access to their healthcare because they are laid off or due to reduced hours. Congress must pass full premium support for those workers relying on COBRA due to layoffs or reduction in hours. Additionally, Congress must ensure that plans are not burdened by massive new health and drug expense by providing plans with reinsurance for pandemic related medical and prescription drug claims.

*Value on Display. **EVERY DAY***

*nabtu.org | 202.347.1461 | 815 Sixteenth St., NW, Suite 600 | Washington, D.C. 20006-4104*



## Pensions

Congress must also act to protect the pensions of millions of participants in multiemployer pensions and shore up the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC"). The existing crisis in multiemployer pensions has been deeply exacerbated by the COVID-19 market collapse and the government mandated shutdown of the economy. Without U.S Government assistance, this crisis will threaten the existence of the 200,000 employers in these plans, their 3.8 million active workers, and the retirement income for 10.4 million participants.

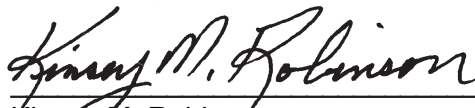
During the discussion of the CARES Act, Senate Democrats put forward a thoughtful proposal (see attached) to deal with the crisis in multiemployer plans that was built off the special partition program included in the Multiemployer Pension Recapitalization and Reform Plan issued by Chairman Grassley and Chairman Alexander in November. The Democrats' proposal was supported by President Trump and we continue to support it, as well.

As you move forward on new legislation, we urge Congress to ensure that any legislation addressing multiemployer pension plans include the special partition program at the PBGC to deal with the critically endangered plans. The special partition program would move liabilities from failing plans to the PBGC, ensuring that participants receive full benefits while providing plans with the path to long-term solvency. As part of that program, the PBGC must be provided with enough annual funding by the U.S. Government to carry out its mission. Finally, Congress should include provisions similar to the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008, to allow plans to freeze their zone status for the current year, and the Pension Relief Act of 2010, to allow plans to smooth investment and contribution base unit ("CBU") losses in the funding standard account, and investment losses in the development of the actuarial value of assets.

Sincerely,



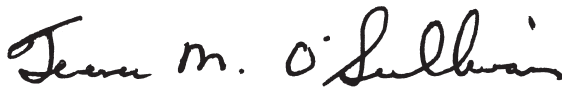
Sean McGarvey  
President



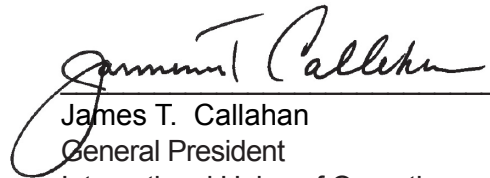
Kinsey M. Robinson  
International President  
United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers  
and Allied Workers



Kenneth E. Rigmaiden  
General President  
International Union of Painters  
and Allied Trades



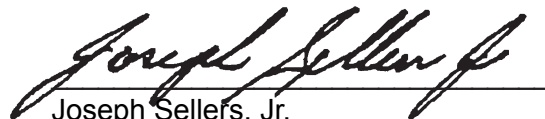
Terry O'Sullivan  
General President  
Laborers' International Union of  
North America



James T. Callahan  
General President  
International Union of Operating  
Engineers



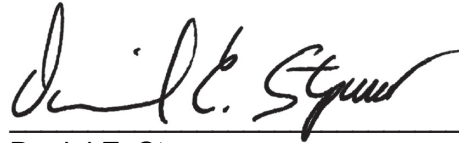
Frank J. Christensen  
General President, International  
Union of Elevator Constructors



Joseph Sellers, Jr.  
General President  
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation



Lonnie R. Stephenson  
International President  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers



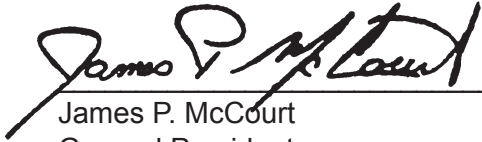
Daniel E. Stepano  
General President  
Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons'  
International Association of the US & Canada



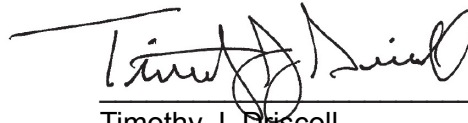
Eric M. Dean  
General President  
International Association of Bridge, Structural,  
Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers



Mark McManus  
General President  
United Association of Journeymen &  
Apprentices of the Plumbing & Pipe Fitting  
Industry of the United States & Canada



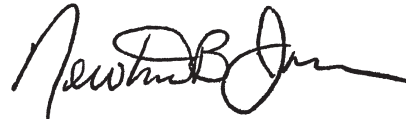
James P. McCourt  
General President  
International Association of Heat &  
Frost Insulators & Allied Workers



Timothy J. Driscoll  
President  
International Union of Bricklayers and  
Allied Craftworkers



James P. Hoffa  
General President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters



Newton B. Jones  
International President  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers,  
Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers &  
Helpers

cc: The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Richard Neal  
The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
The Honorable Kevin Brady  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx