



May 7, 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 Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I first want to thank you for your exemplary leadership during these most trying of national circumstances. It has not gone unnoticed and furthermore, working families have benefited because of your actions.

As you know, across the nation, North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) members have stepped up to ensure critical infrastructure essential to our public health and the movement of our first responders, medical supplies, consumer goods and information remains safe and functioning, while contributing significant man hours to the construction of much needed medical facility space to address the needs placed upon health care systems by COVID-19. To limit the pandemic related damage to the construction sector, to ensure a strong economic recovery, and to ensure that we are able to continue our over century long tradition of training workers for careers in the construction industry, I strongly encourage you to include robust infrastructure investment in the CARES 2 package.

For multiple election cycles now, NABTU members have been told by members of both parties of the need for significant investment in our public infrastructure. Nearly every facet of our infrastructure requires a significant federal investment to simply bring it to a state of good repair and COVID-19 has cast a spotlight on that fact and has highlighted some of the inequities in our economy as a result. Our members and local leadership are once again receiving calls from sitting Members and congressional candidates for financial support of their political campaigns yet they in turn cannot articulate a thoughtful action plan or update us on meaningful movement for a robust, multi-year infrastructure program that they have repeatedly voted for and had every reason to expect would have been addressed by this Congress. Roads, bridges, municipal water systems, broadband, aviation, energy systems, ports and waterways, and public schools have been used as props in political campaigns and it is now time to deliver for the electorate.

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Just as you and your colleagues have committed to prioritizing relief for multi-employer pension funds and ensuring the unemployed will not lose access to quality and affordable health care, prioritizing an investment in our nation's infrastructure will demonstrate your commitment to the immediate and long-term recovery of the construction sector and our economy overall. This is the moment for the House to lead. This is the moment to exhibit the will of the people by moving a bill to the Senate that will create millions of job opportunities in an economy that is facing its worst circumstances since the Great Depression. And just as the Great Depression required a response of massive federal investment, so too will this COVID-19 economy. With interest rates near or at zero, and with deficit hawks abandoning long-held positions that have proven to be nothing more than acts of political expediency, now is the time to make an investment in infrastructure that will provide a positive rate of return for a generation.

NABTU believes that such an investment must take a holistic approach to our infrastructure. Not only should the federal government maintain and expand its obligation to provide funding for roads, bridges, transit, aviation, rail, waterways, ports, energy and municipal water systems, but we must provide significant funding for public school and broadband infrastructure as well, and we applaud your commitment to invest in these sectors. Coupled with long-standing labor protections, these investments will resuscitate construction careers, and with them, the health and pension systems within the construction economy. Furthermore, to ensure these important and long-overdue investments benefit local communities, House Democrats must seriously examine permitting reform. NABTU believes that we can improve the permitting process without hampering the underlying regulations, which keep our members safe and healthy on the jobsite. Without such actions, I am concerned that significant and much needed investments in energy delivery for consumers, including priorities in renewable energy and broadband deployment, will be wasted efforts as permits, or the lack thereof, will delay or destroy project delivery.

To stimulate the economy to the level of prolonged recovery, a vibrant construction sector is essential, as witnessed by state and local governments deeming it as such. The economic activity generated in local economies as a result of infrastructure investment will provide much needed tax revenue to state and local governments as they continue to grapple with COVID-19 related revenue losses that have decimated their budgets and threaten their ability to provide basic services to the American people. Furthermore, robust infrastructure investment will create job opportunities for our members and contractors, providing pathways of opportunity for people whose training was sidetracked by COVID-19 and opening new career opportunities for the next generation of skilled craft professionals to move through our world-renowned Registered Apprenticeship system.

Madam Speaker, your leadership has brought bold and decisive action to respond to the crisis inflicted upon our nation by COVID-19. Once again, such leadership is required to ensure a massive investment in infrastructure is included in CARES 2. We well understand frustrations of relying on Senate leadership to rise to the occasion but given the publicly stated support for such an effort from the White House, we are counting on you to advance legislation out of the House of Representatives that will give Americans something to rally behind as we structure a recovery that some economists predict will require an effort akin to Reconstruction. You can count on the over three million highly skilled craft professionals of North America's Building Trades Unions as unwavering partners in this effort and we will be tracking this issue closely as we communicate with our members and their families who are understandably anxious about the effects of this crisis and are desperately looking for inspired leadership.

We stand ready and willing to work with you to do whatever it takes to ensure our economic recovery is felt in every community across the nation.

Sincerely,



Sean McGarvey
President