



LIUNA!

May 13, 2009

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN
General President

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ARMAND E. SABITONI
General Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Chairman Waxman:

Vice Presidents:

On behalf of the members of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) I want to thank you for your leadership in taking a first critical step toward enacting sensible, responsible climate change and energy policy. We feel the time to act is now and the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES) provides a road map of federal policies to move our country toward building a clean energy economy – an economy that both combats global warming and creates millions of good paying jobs.

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The need to regulate green house gas (GHG) emissions has now been universally recognized; therefore, we are faced with a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to prevent further global environmental damage from GHGs and the opportunity is to create federal policy that maximizes the investment of public revenues in public goods. We urge the Committee to ensure that provisions are included that direct public investment in programs and activities, that creates jobs and advances the policy goals of the legislation, such as zero and low carbon energy generation; wide scale commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS); transportation infrastructure – including mass transit; new energy transmission systems; and commercial building retrofit and public / residential energy efficiency programs.

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To ensure these investments support the creation of high-road jobs and careers in the construction sector we urge the Committee to include language to ensure that Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wages apply to all federally assisted construction; which would encompass loans, tax credits, production payments, and other innovative financing. Also, a highly skilled, well trained workforce will be needed as the construction industry adapts to a new set of demands and integrates a new set of energy efficiency programs and low-carbon technology. Therefore we ask that sufficient funding be made available to joint labor management apprenticeship programs so that LIUNA, along with our industry partners, can train a diverse and inclusive clean energy workforce that will help build America's

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green energy infrastructure. It is our belief that including provisions to fund the Green Jobs Act enacted into law during the last Congress as a part of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 would help achieve this objective.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) included \$5 billion in Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding to weatherize 1 million homes. This was a tremendous start to this important work, but we believe that more should be done. This is a rare initiative that pays triple dividends: the savings in energy costs will repay the monies invested in a short three to seven years, desperately needed jobs will be created in a time of economic crisis and residential weatherization is among the most effective elements of a comprehensive plan to redress global warming.

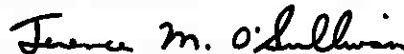
There are nearly 40 million homes qualifying for WAP assistance. Even at the rate funded in the ARRA, it would take 40 years to complete a job that the Department of Energy says should be done in 10. Long-term robust funding of WAP is sound environmental and economic policy; and it will signal to the community action agencies and programs that carry out the weatherization whether the ARRA monies were merely a short term funding bump or whether it was the down payment on a continuing policy that will be pursued until the job is done.

LIUNA, along with our partners in the environmental community, want to help Congress and the Administration put America on a path to preserve a livable climate and create a clean energy economy. As we work to achieve this common goal, we ask the Committee to ensure that the final version of ACES creates a new economic development model which ensures that the quality of jobs created by public investment in the clean energy economy is equally as important as the number of jobs created.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to working with the Committee as you continue to work on this critical piece of legislation.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN
General President

cc

cc: All Members of House Committee on Energy and Commerce