



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Senate HELP Committee Set to Vote on Rep. Hilda Solis** **IFPTE Calls on Committee to Approve Labor Nominee**

WASHINGTON, DC – As the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee prepares to vote tomorrow on the confirmation of Congresswoman Hilda Solis to be the next Secretary of Labor, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), urged committee members today to vote to approve her nomination.

In a letter sent to HELP Committee members, IFPTE President Junemann applauded Representative Solis' public record, and pointed to her working class background as reasons to support her appointment. The IFPTE President also urged Committee members to reflect on the dismal record of the Department of Labor over the last eight years in considering President-elect Obama's nomination of Rep. Hilda Solis.

Below are excerpts of the letter:

“American workers are desperate for a Labor Secretary that will work to protect THEIR rights on the job and will play a critical role in improving economic opportunities for working families. To his credit, President-elect Obama has chosen a candidate who will be a true advocate for our nation's middle class workers...

“Congresswoman Solis has dedicated her public life to improving the lives of working men and women. She is one of seven children whose father worked as a railroad worker, a laborer, a farm worker, and in a battery recycling plant where he served his coworkers as a shop steward for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT). Her mother, who emigrated from Nicaragua, was a stay at home Mother until she was forced to seek employment at a Mattel toy factory to help support her family. It is this working class upbringing and background that have influenced her career in public life...

“IFPTE believes that Representative Solis is well suited to be the nation's top advocate for working people. We wholeheartedly endorse her to be the next Secretary of Labor and ask that, as a member of the Senate HELP Committee, you vote to support her candidacy.”

Once passed through the HELP Committee, Rep. Solis' nomination will move to the full Senate for approval.

Full text of the Junemann letter can be found at [www.ifpte.org](http://www.ifpte.org).

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