



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

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August 4, 2021

Dear Senator:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we are writing to share our support for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal currently being considered by the Senate as H.R. 3684. We ask you to pass this \$1.2 trillion legislation which adds a significant \$550 billion in new infrastructure funding and includes necessary reauthorizations for surface transportation, water, and energy infrastructure.

Our support for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is driven by the concerns of our members who work in a diverse set of industries and sectors throughout the economy. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is not only a chance to remedy what the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) calculates is a \$2.59 trillion infrastructure maintenance and repair deficit, but it is also a pathway for encouraging high-quality union jobs in the public and private sectors throughout the U.S. Our union looks to this Congress to work together to pass legislation that meets not just the urgent concerns of American workers, but the long-term and long-neglected needs of working families and communities, industries, and our nation.

Further, we call on you and your Senate colleagues to revisit the House-passed INVEST in America Act when considering amendments to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. The INVEST in America Act fits well within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal and we urge you to incorporate that bill's policy commitments to transit and rail, clean energy, and pollution reduction. We ask you to include language to ensure fairness in all "Value for Money" cost analyses between the public and private sectors so that taxpayers are guaranteed quality infrastructure and public services.

IFPTE supports the following provisions in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework:

- Transit and Rail Modernization – This bill provides \$39.2 billion for public transit and \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail. We applaud this commitment and ask you to maintain language that closes transit equity gaps, prepares for future investments, includes disaster mitigation, and requires set-asides for low-income and underserved urban and rural areas.
- Investments in Energy and Electric Grid – We applaud the inclusion of the bipartisan Energy Infrastructure Act, which provides \$73 billion for power infrastructure. As recent outages in regional transmission systems have shown, investment in a resilient and energy efficient transmission and distribution system is urgently required to meet current needs and to prepare for future expansion of clean energy generation and utilization.
- Highway, Road, Bridge Repair and Construction, and Safety – The \$110 billion for major projects in surface transportation is long overdue to remedy the poor or mediocre condition that 40% of the nation's roads and highways are in and the structurally deficient that 7.5% of the nation's bridges are in. Additionally, funding for safety for pedestrians and bicyclists through the "Safe Streets and Roads for All" program, SMART grants, and other provisions are welcome steps in preventing needless death and injury on our highways and streets.

- Ports and Waterways – This bill’s commitment of \$9.55 billion in new spending for Army Corps of Engineers infrastructure projects is a significant step towards resolving the backlog of repairs and maintenance while also mitigating the impact of natural disasters and improving infrastructure resiliency. We urge you to maintain this robust investment in critical multimodal infrastructure.
- Airports – With long-term trends indicating growing capacity challenges, our aviation infrastructure is expected to face at least a \$11 billion funding shortfall over 10 years in pre-pandemic projections, this bill’s \$25 billion commitment to airport infrastructure will meeting current and upcoming needs.
- Investment in Drinking and Wastewater Systems – The \$55 billion for upgrading and fixing service and sewer lines and pipes addresses a critical public health issue for millions of American families. The inclusion of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act will increase the safety, reliability, and efficiency of our water systems for all Americans.
- Expanding Broadband Across the U.S. – The \$65 billion allocation for broadband infrastructure will expand internet access to families, schools, and businesses throughout the nation. We applaud \$40 billion in grants to states as well as the inclusion of provisions to assure affordability and access to tribal and rural areas.
- Support for American Jobs and Buy America – IFPTE applauds the inclusion of the Build America Buy America Act. Additionally, we urge lawmakers to ensure prevailing wage and labor standards are maintained in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal.

As you work continue to consider amendments to the bill this week, we urge you to pass this legislation absent any weakening amendments, including efforts to liberalize the privatization process for public and federal sector functions, and weaken or eliminate Davis Bacon wage requirement and/or project-labor agreements.

Because the scale of our infrastructure deficit is so vast and the improvements needed to address future pressures on our infrastructure systems are so great, we fully anticipate additional legislation will be necessary to advance towards the broad goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. IFPTE urges you to continue to work with your colleagues to pass additional legislation through budget reconciliation and other legislative vehicles to compliment the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. Finally, infrastructure investments in the budget reconciliation package should be funded through fair and progressive tax policies that close corporate tax loopholes, prevent offshore corporate tax dodging, and require the wealthiest earners and corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.

Thank you for considering our request for you to support this necessary legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or contact IFPTE Legislative Representative Faraz Khan at 202-239-4880.

Sincerely,



Paul Shearon
IFPTE President



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE Secretary Treasurer/Legislative Director