



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

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January 13, 2021

Dear Senator:

We write to you as the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 members, to express our strong support for passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. Our democracy is in urgent need of passing these bills and we also request your support for reforming the Senate filibuster rules so that procedural hurdles cannot block the passage of necessary voting rights, and other critically important legislation for working families.

The legislation we are asking you to support will ensure that participation in our democracy is protected for American citizens and not constrained by discriminatory and ill-conceived voting policies and practices at the state and local level. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, sponsored by Senator Leahy, restores the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, long considered to be the most successful legislative accomplishment of the Civil Rights era, by modernizing the Voting Rights Act's preclearance process to comply with the Supreme Court's 2013 *Shelby County* decision and restoring the federal government's role in reviewing changes to voting procedures in states and localities with a recent record of discriminatory election policies. The Freedom to Vote Act, sponsored by Senator Klobuchar, complements the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act by establishing national criteria for voter registration, election security, redistricting, and campaign finance. Together, these bills would protect the franchise of voting for American citizens, regardless of the state, locality, or community they live in.

Protecting and maintaining the fundamental right to vote is critical our democracy. This is a core labor concern because the labor movement's work and working Americans' ability to advance their interests is premised on our nation being a functioning democracy. In the absence of the provisions in these bills, 19 states in the past year have passed laws making it more difficult for Americans to vote.

Passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress requires reforming the Senate's procedural rules so those rules cannot be used to obstruct the passage of important voting rights bills. In the strongest possible terms, we urge you to reform the Senate's filibuster rules and pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us, or IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at 202-239-4892.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Biggs  
IFPTE President

Gay Henson  
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer