



LIUNA!

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

July 22, 2014

ARMAND E. SABITONI
General Secretary-Treasurer

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Vice Presidents:

Dear Senator:

VERE O. HAYNES

On behalf of the 500,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I urge you to support the amendments to H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, being offered by Senators Boxer, Carper and Corker and the amendment being offered by Senator Wyden.

TERRENCE M. HEALY

RAYMOND M. POCINO

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*Special Assistant to the
General President*

VINCENT R. MASINO

DENNIS L. MARTIRE

The Boxer-Carper-Corker amendment would ensure that the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) stays solvent and that Congress does not delay work on a long-term transportation reauthorization bill until next year. We recognize that a measure to keep the HTF program funded through the summer is essential, but there is no good reason for Congress to abdicate its responsibilities and kick the can down the road into next year as some are insisting.

ROBERT E. RICHARDSON

RALPH E. COLE

JOHN F. PENN

OSCAR DE LA TORRE

SERGIO RASCON

JOHN F. HEGARTY

There is plenty of time in the fall to pass a well-funded, long-term reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs. Senator Boxer's amendment would allow that opportunity by reducing the cost of the HTF patch and by setting an expiration date for surface transportation programs on December 19, 2014, instead of May 2015. By reducing both the cost and duration of the patch, this amendment would ensure that, at a minimum, Congress would have to revisit patching the Trust Fund in either September or during any lame-duck session. This will give Congress a chance to pass a long-term surface transportation reauthorization.

THEODORE T. GREEN
General Counsel

The amendment that we expect Senator Wyden to offer would substitute the "pay-fors" that were contained in a bill passed by the House of Representatives that is under consideration, with the bi-partisan package that was passed recently by the Senate Finance Committee. LIUNA appreciates the work that Chairman Wyden has done in forging a bipartisan agreement and commends the committee for working together to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent.

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Throughout June and July, LIUNA has held events across the country with our *Getting Schooled in Infrastructure* campaign for action for a long-term

Feel the Power

Highway Trust Fund

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carrying a replica of a chunk of fallen bridge to grab the attention of the public. You know the statistics. Our increasingly unsafe roads and bridges will further deteriorate. One in four bridges in the U.S. is deficient or obsolete. The average bridge is forty-six years old, dangerously close to the average lifespan of fifty years. Poor road conditions such as potholes are now a contributing factor in a third of traffic fatalities. That's about 10,000 lost lives every year. We saw the public's awareness of all of these realities throughout our transportation infrastructure campaign. Our members understand that as many as two million good construction jobs are at risk if Congress fails to act on a long-term highway bill and the federal Highway Trust Fund.

A strong federal role in supporting the U.S. transportation infrastructure has been a core component of U.S. competitiveness. Since its inception during the Eisenhower Administration, the HTF has been supported across the political spectrum by Democrats and Republicans, business and labor. It is frustrating that Congress is unable to find the collective will to work together in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to address the important issues facing our crumbling infrastructure. Duct taping our infrastructure through patches is not responsible. Failure to act on a long-term reauthorization bill by the end of this year will mean fewer jobs, fewer contracts, and fewer opportunities to effectively plan for the long term. This is not acceptable.

Again, on behalf of LIUNA's members, I urge you to support the amendments that we expect to be offered by Senator Boxer and Senator Wyden, and then work aggressively during the next few months to pass a long-term transportation reauthorization bill by the end of the year. It is time for Congress to act on a long term reauthorization of our surface transportation programs. Our country and our workers deserve more than that.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

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