



Founded 1889

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

Three Park Place • Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 269-2000 • Fax (410) 267-0262 • <http://www.ua.org>

Mark McManus
General President

Patrick H. Kellett
General Secretary-Treasurer

Michael A. Pleasant
Assistant General President

General Office File Reference: GP

November 10, 2021

To All Local Union Business Managers in the United States

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Over the weekend, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This bipartisan legislation is the single biggest investment in American infrastructure since President Eisenhower created the Interstate Highway System. After months of difficult negotiations, Congress finally delivered for working families like ours.

For generations, presidents of both parties have promised to make investments in infrastructure that would put UA members to work. And for generations, those presidents have failed to deliver on their promise. Just four years ago, I was in the White House with other building trades General Presidents to meet with the new president. He promised us a \$2 trillion infrastructure bill, which would have been the most significant investment in infrastructure in our nation's history. We left that meeting excited for the future and ready to get to work. Sadly, after four years all we had to show for it was yet another empty promise.

This past February, I was again in the Oval Office with the newly inaugurated president for another meeting on infrastructure. President Biden made it clear to us that not only would he deliver on infrastructure, but that he would make sure there were strong labor protections to ensure our members can earn fair wages and benefits. We left that meeting skeptical of the path ahead after years of broken promises, but eager to work with this Administration and members of both parties in Congress to get this bill done.

I can now confidently say that President Biden delivered on his promise to invest in UA members and American workers as we rebuild our aging infrastructure.

While there is still work left to do in the Senate to pass the second part of the Build Back Better agenda, this bipartisan infrastructure deal is a massive victory for all UA members – and a direct result of why we get involved. Not only did the UA work to elect Joe Biden as President, but we worked to elect allies in the Senate and House of Representatives to help pass legislation like this bill.

Just look at the roll call vote, which you can find at the link here: 215 Democrats and 13 Republicans voted for the bill, giving it a bipartisan majority of 228-206. All 228 members who voted for this bill – Democrats and Republicans alike – demonstrated that they are strong allies of the United Association. Even though a bipartisan majority joined together to pass this bill, most Republicans and a small number of Democrats voted against the legislation as they decided to play partisan games instead of standing with working families like ours.

Here's the bottom line: without the United Association's involvement in elections and in the legislative process, this bill would not have passed.





This process was not without its hurdles; bold, transformative actions rarely are. But just like our own deliberations, this process yielded the best possible result for UA members and working families. When our Political Engagement Committee met last year to develop criteria for a possible endorsement in the presidential race, legislation like this bill was a critical part of that process.

Now that the bill has passed and is headed to President Biden's desk to be signed into law, I wanted to highlight a few critical components that will lead to good-paying UA jobs for our members. As we build the next generation of American infrastructure, including a push towards cleaner and more efficient energy sources, this legislation demonstrates that there is good UA work to be done in these emerging sectors. Most importantly, much of this funding includes labor protections like prevailing wage provisions and the use of registered apprenticeships that will help our members win more work.

You will also find a more detailed breakdown of what is in the bill enclosed with this letter, as well as links to state-specific fact sheets that you might find useful.

Labor Standards

- Prevailing wage provisions throughout;
- Use of registered apprenticeships throughout.

Water Infrastructure

- \$50 million annually for WIFIA, leveraging approximately \$5 billion for water and wastewater projects;
- \$8.3 billion for water recycling, storage, and reuse;
- \$2 billion for regional clean water programs; and
- \$15 billion to replace lead service lines;

Energy Projects

- \$30 billion in clean energy research and development;
- \$30 billion for innovation:
 - \$2.5 billion for SMRs
 - \$500 million for storage demos
 - \$3.5 billion for CCS
 - \$500 million for industrial decarbonization
- \$3.5 billion for direct air capture tech;
- \$3.5 billion for building efficiency;
- Hydrogen:
 - \$8 billion for regional hubs;
 - \$1 billion for demonstration and cost reduction;
 - \$500 supply chain issues related to hydrogen development;
- Carbon Management:
 - \$2.5 billion commercial-scale geologic storage
 - \$2.1 to finance and fund CO2 transport networks
- \$4.7 methane leaks and environmental remediation



Brothers and Sisters, this legislation is a truly generational step forward for our union. It is the culmination of years of hard work and engagement in the political process that at times can be frustrating and discouraging. While you may not agree with certain aspects of the politics of those we elect, we can all agree that those politicians who fight for UA jobs with fair wages and benefits are our allies.

That's why we get involved in politics with one goal in mind: who will best fight for our members in Washington?

Today, those allies are President Biden and the 228 members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, who voted to make the largest investment in American infrastructure in generations.

Fraternally,

Mark McManus
General President

MM:ail

cc: General Officers, International Representatives and Special Representatives