



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

900 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202.833.7000
www.ibew.org

EDWIN D. HILL
International President

SAM J. CHILIA
International
Secretary-Treasurer

October 20, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

**TO: All U.S. International Vice Presidents and International Representatives
All District and State Coordinators
All U.S. Business Managers and Registrars in the Construction Industry**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

A piece of President Obama's jobs bill proposes over 100 billion dollars of spending on infrastructure projects. The infrastructure projects related to schools, water systems, rail and the energy grid would put IBEW members to work. What the IBEW wants more than anything is jobs for its members. Supporting infrastructure spending is one way the IBEW can try to get its members back to work.

Attached is memo from Mark Ayers, President of the Building and Construction Trades. President Ayers is asking for the IBEW's help in organizing and participating in events that highlight the President's infrastructure spending plan.

Economic indicators predict a sustained period of high unemployment without federal spending on infrastructure. Therefore, for the betterment of IBEW members we must persuade Congress to pass infrastructure spending. I am asking each of you to give your full support for organizing and participating in as many infrastructure project events as you can. These events and the publicity surrounding them are the best way to make our voices heard on this very important issue.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin D. Hill".

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:lgd
Attachment



The Time is Now to Fight for Infrastructure Investments

October 17, 2011

Dear State and Local Building Trades Leader:

Finally, after years of trying to get our elected officials to pass legislation to spur infrastructure investment, President Obama has begun to focus on rebuilding our crumbling bridges, roads, schools, energy grid, and water systems. Even Republicans, who have opposed everything the President has proposed, have woken up and have begun talking about the need for infrastructure investments, as well as the need to extend federal unemployment benefits.

This is a huge breakthrough!

Even though Republicans have blocked consideration of the President's *American Jobs Act*, discussions are underway right now about which elements of the proposal will become law.

The most effective thing America can do right now to improve our economy is to put America's skilled craft professionals back to work rebuilding our infrastructure, while extending unemployment benefits for those Americans who continue to struggle to find employment. We all know what those jobs will mean for our local communities, we see it every day, but the benefits that robust infrastructure investment will bring to a teetering global economy are immeasurable.

Both Republicans and Democrats are finally admitting that the best part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (aka. the 2009 Stimulus Bill) was the infrastructure investment. The money spent on clean energy, roads, water, schools, and transmission lines had the greatest effect on employment and growth.

There is a real chance that this "do-nothing" Congress will actually do something to try to create jobs and grow our economy. But, it is up to us whether that "something" is to pass only tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, or do the right thing and invest in America's economic future.

Congress must focus on infrastructure, not simply tax cuts. But, they will not act without pressure from us!

Keeping the Pressure Up

The best way to build pressure on Congress is to hold events in your area that show the need to rebuild our infrastructure. Some councils have recently held rallies at schools that desperately need repairs, or at bridges that are functionally obsolete. Whatever the project or location, it is important that the media, elected officials, and our rank and file members are invited and attend.

The best and easiest way to hold an event is to contact a Member of Congress (House or Senate) with whom you have a good relationship. Most of the time, they are absolutely thrilled to engage in these activities, and their local district offices have the capacity and experience in organizing these events and dealing with the media. Often all our councils need to do when working with a Member of Congress is turn out members for the event and prepare remarks for a couple speakers.

The Department has prepared **Talking Points, Sample Op-Eds, and a Sample Letter to the Editor** for your use on this important issue. These materials can be accessed through the "members only" section of our [website](#). Simply click the Members Only tab at the top of the homepage, and then enter the following username and password:

username: bctc
password: union

Once inside, look to the right for the link to "October 2011 Infrastructure Field Materials"

If you do not have a friendly relationship with your particular Members of Congress, you can always hold events on your own. The AFL-CIO has a number of resources that make this very easy. The AFL-CIO's **Good Jobs Now** campaign lists events that are taking place across the country. They also have maps which show the events scheduled to take place near you. Check the [Good Jobs Now website](#), or contact your State AFL-CIO to see what events are taking place in your area. Your State Federation may also have capacity to help you host an event, and you can talk to them about field and media staff that can help you organize a local rally.

While events and rallies are best at garnering the attention of those in Congress, we should never stop encouraging our rank and file members, particularly those who are unemployed, from calling or emailing their elected officials and demanding action on infrastructure. Again, the AFL-CIO has [a terrific link](#) to help make this process easy.

We will be holding another conference call with all state and local building trades councils in the near future in order to keep you updated on the latest action on Capitol Hill, and to receive updates on events and rallies that you all are hosting.

In the meantime, should you have any question, or should you need additional information, please contact Chip Gardiner, our Director of Government Affairs (cgardiner@bctd.org 202-756-4663).

Thank you.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Mark H. Ayers
President

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