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Statement of Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA, On Today's Job Loss Report

“Construction workers continue to experience depression-level unemployment”

Construction Unemployment at 21.1% -- 1.9 Million Construction Workers Looking for Jobs

Washington, D.C. (April 3, 2009) – U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly jobs report released today shows construction unemployment at 21.1%. Currently, more than 1.9 million construction workers are out of a job. In the last month, 126,000 construction jobs were lost, marking the 21th consecutive month with significant job loss in the construction industry and one of the highest months of job loss since the recession began. In all, 1,264,000 construction jobs have been lost since the start of 2007.

LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – is leading the effort to put people back to work building America's roads, bridges, schools, mass-transit, water and new energy systems.

LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan made the following statement on today's jobs report:

Once again the monthly jobs report shows devastating job loss for the construction workers who build America. An average of 118,000 construction jobs have disappeared in the last five months, taking paychecks away from struggling families and consumers away from an ailing economy. Construction workers continue to experience depression-level unemployment.

For men and women who build America, the economic recovery package provides a glimmer of hope as they struggle to feed their families and keep a roof over their heads. But even after the economic recovery investments to build America create 700,000 construction jobs, there will still be more than 1.2 million construction workers unemployed.

To create the jobs working families desperately need, we must make a much greater investment to build America. By building America we can put people back to work taking care of the things our country needs, while turning our economy around and leaving behind a lasting legacy for generations to come.

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The half-million members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America. To learn more about LIUNA's Build America, so America Works - a long-term effort to make taking care of America's basics a national priority - go to www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org.