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

“The construction industry is in a near depression”

Construction Unemployment at 21.4% -- 2 Million Construction Workers Looking for Jobs

Washington, D.C. (March 6, 2009) – U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly jobs report released today shows construction unemployment at 21.4%. Currently, more than 2 million construction workers are out of a job. In the last month, 104,000 construction jobs were lost, marking the 20th consecutive month with significant job loss in the construction industry. In all, 1,118,000 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:

Today's jobs report shows another disastrous month for construction jobs. Every month we see massive job loss in the construction industry and every month it gets worse. More than one million construction jobs have disappeared in two years, taking paychecks away from struggling families and consumers away from an ailing economy. The construction industry is in a near depression.

The economic recovery plan is a good start but there is a lot more work to do. Even if the recovery plan meets expectations and creates 700,000 construction jobs, there will still be more than 1.3 million construction workers looking for a job.

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

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The 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.