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

Job Loss in Construction Slows as Workers Get Back to Work Building America

Washington, D.C. (May 8, 2009) – The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly jobs report released today shows construction unemployment at 18.7 percent, an improvement from last month's 21.1 percent.

Currently, more than 1,737,000 construction workers are jobless and in the last month, 110,000 construction jobs were lost, marking the 22th consecutive month with significant job loss in the construction industry. In all, 1,389,000 construction jobs have been lost since the start of 2007.

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

The loss of 110,000 jobs last month in the construction industry is nothing to cheer about, but the fact that the decline has slowed is better news than we've had in many months.

The slowed paced of construction job loss demonstrates that the economic stimulus package is beginning to put people back to work building America. But even after the economic recovery investments to build America take full effect – expected to create about 700,000 construction jobs – there will still be more than 1 million construction workers looking for work.

Building America is a proven way to create good jobs and bring paychecks back to working families and communities. With a much greater investment to build America, we can put our country back to work taking care of long-neglected basics 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.