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**Statement of Terence M. O'Sullivan,
General President of LIUNA,
On John McCain's Gas Tax Proposal**

"Workers Need Economic Recovery, Not an 18-Cents-Off Coupon"

Washington, D.C. (April 16, 2008) -- America's workers need economic recovery and good jobs, not an 18-cents-off coupon while a blind eye is turned to oil company profits and more than a trillion dollars in tax breaks goes to the rich.

The Senator's proposal to temporarily eliminate the 18-cent-a-gallon gas tax is not a helping hand for the men and women who make America work. At best, it underscores his inability to understand the pressures workers and their families are facing.

Senator McCain's gas tax waiver guts resources that working families need to help build and maintain already overburdened highways. The Senator must not have driven to work lately nor sat anxiously in bumper-to-bumper traffic trying to pick up his kids or grandkids on time.

The 18 cents a gallon currently benefits workers and their families. The Highway Trust Fund, which helps maintain our roads and is already underfunded, would lose \$8.5 billion under the senator's proposal. Not only would traffic congestion worsen an estimated 295,000 highway jobs would disappear at a time when unemployment is already rising.

If John McCain wants working families to have a holiday from the worsening economy and crises created by his mentor, President Bush, he should call for the elimination of the trillions in tax breaks for the rich and focus his scrutiny on the billions in windfall profits collected by oil corporations.

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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 10 million workers who build America.