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Statement of Terence M. O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA,

On the Continuing Loss of Construction Jobs and Need for Real Economic Stimulus

Washington, D.C. (June 6, 2008) – Today's alarming job market report cries out for aggressive economic stimulus focused on creating jobs.

The report released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that 34,000 construction jobs were lost between the April 2008 and May 2008. The loss of construction jobs is by far the largest of any U.S. employment sector.

The net loss of 440,000 construction jobs since 2007 nearly equals the amount of jobs lost in the manufacturing industry. While most of the jobs lost have been in the residential industry, there has also been significant job loss in commercial construction and heavy-highway construction both in the last month and since the start of 2007.

Earlier this year, Congress and President Bush responded to mounting unemployment and an economy sliding into recession with a one-time economic stimulus package. Working families who are struggling appreciated the break, but a one-time check will do nothing sustainable to stimulate the economy.

Instead, our nation needs a plan to build America – so that America works. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives the basic infrastructure of the United States a near-failing grade due to years of neglect and estimates that \$1.6 trillion is needed over the next five years to fix America's basics.

LIUNA members and millions of construction workers like them can build our highways, mass transit systems, bridges, water system, dams, airports and schools. Building America is what they do and they are proud to do it.

If we redirect resources to what is needed in America, we can create millions of family supporting jobs and take care of the basics of our nation at the same time.

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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.

LIUNA recently launched its Build America, so America Works campaign, a long-term effort to make taking care of America's highways, bridges, dams, schoolhouses and other basics a national priority. The effort includes ongoing targeted advertising outreach, a new website www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org and The Petition to Build America, with a goal of 1 million voices telling Congress and the country's next president to "build America so America works."