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LIUNA Member Testifies Before Congressional Committee, Urges Investment in Transportation, Other Basic Needs in America

“It’s Time to Invest in America for a Change”

Washington, D.C. (Sept. 29, 2010) – At a hearing of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee today, Greg Mobley, an Indiana member of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, gave voice to working men and women who were put to work through federal investment in our nation’s roads and bridges, as well as the millions more who would be employed if Congress commits to addressing the country’s deteriorating basics.

“Investment in projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helped many of us,” Mobley said. “It’s good, honest work that put money in our pockets and allowed us to support our families. And it improved local transportation, making life better for people who live in Indiana.”

Mobley, a member of LIUNA Local 741 in Bloomington, testified as part of a hearing on implementation of the ARRA stimulus bill. He worked on two projects funded by the legislation, including improvements to Lafayette Road in Indianapolis and US-27 in Union County.

“This work did more than give us a paycheck and fix roads. It’s impossible to overstate how good it feels to have a job to go to every day, to catch up on your bills after months of falling behind,” Mobley said. “I’m proud of the work I’ve done because of the Recovery Act. I can point to the real things I build and tell my wife, my nieces or my nephews: I built that.”

Mobley noted when he was out of work last year, his family’s savings dwindled and his ability to support local businesses was curbed. “We didn’t spend a dime that we absolutely didn’t have to,” he said. “We skipped the movie at the local theater. We skipped the drink or dinner with friends. We skipped the treat or gift.”

Mobley’s testimony comes as the Surface Transportation Act, legislation which would support millions of jobs and move toward building the transportation systems America needs to remain globally competitive, awaits Congressional action. The act provides investment for the Highway Trust Fund, which has been kept afloat through a series of short-term extensions. Those extensions do not provide the certainty or level investment needed for jobs creation. President Obama this month offered new support for passage of a six-year bill and has asked Congress to act on it.

Through its Build America 2010 campaign, LIUNA has focused on the Surface Transportation Bill as a way to address the country's needs, get the economy moving again and leave behind real assets for taxpayers and future generations.

“The Recovery Act was the right medicine, but the truth is it was not nearly enough medicine to be a cure. It put me back on the right track for now, but there are 1.5 million men and women in the construction industry today who are still looking for work,” Mobley told the committee. “I think it’s time to invest in America for a change.”

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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. For more information on Build America 2010 visit www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org.