



LIUNA!

January 26, 2015

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Senator Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of the half-million members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I would like to thank you for introducing the Rebuild America Act. Your legislation shines a much-needed light on the crisis of America's crumbling critical infrastructure. The \$1 trillion investment proposed in the bill would make our nation safer, create millions of jobs, and help our economy grow.

As you are aware, the men and women of LIUNA not only rely on infrastructure in their daily lives, but we also build and maintain our transportation, water and energy infrastructure. That is why LIUNA has been on the frontlines of advocating for a strong long-term highway bill, investments in our water resources and unlocking our energy future including the Keystone XL Pipeline, natural gas and renewables.

The size of our crisis can be daunting. The American Society of Civil Engineers calculates that our nation will have to invest \$3.6 trillion in its fundamental infrastructure by 2020 simply to bring it to acceptable standards. Failing to act means putting future generations on the hook for ever-escalating costs and risking lives. According to the independent transportation research group, TRIP, potholes and other poor road conditions contribute to a third of traffic fatalities, equating to more than 10,000 lives lost every year, and costing the average motorist \$444 in wasted gas and car repairs.

You may be aware that LIUNA has been a consistent advocate of adjusting the federal gas tax in order to invest in our transportation infrastructure. Raising this user fee can create the certainty and resources needed to begin undertaking desperately needed transportation projects. To illustrate the dire need LIUNA traveled the country with the *getting schooled in infrastructure* bus, a real school bus which appeared to have been crushed by a falling bridge. The prop dramatically warned what may well be in store if we do not act. We believe that with Congressional leadership, motorists will accept a modest adjustment in the gas tax over loss of life and the "pothole penalty" they currently pay.

Feel the Power



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In addition to the positive vision laid out in your legislation, Congress must have a real debate, followed by consensus, about how to pay for needed investments.

Congress has viable options. Now it is time for the political will to move forward. We appreciate your efforts to move us closer to action with the introduction of the Rebuild America Act.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "S".

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

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