

**Testimony of the Honorable Frank J. Mrvan
U.S. Representative, IN-01**

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

**April 14, 2021
Member Day Hearing**

I would like to thank Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and all the Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for holding today's hearing.

I have the great privilege of representing Indiana's First Congressional District, which is an incredible hub of economic and transportation networks. Our road, rail, waterway, and airport transportation systems connect the Northwest Indiana regional economy to the Chicago economy and our nation. Our unique location, combined with Indiana's strong labor organizations that provide skilled craft workers and our low-tax, business friendly environment, continues to attract new residents who diversify our economic development. To better serve this demand and relieve the traffic and congestion of our utilized transportation networks, I appreciate the opportunity to appear and testify today, and I thank the Committee for soliciting projects that will have a transformative impact on our nation, including the Northwest Indiana economy. I am grateful for your commitment to utilizing the full capabilities of the Legislative Branch and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to advocate for regional and transformational projects that will benefit individuals, families, workers and businesses throughout Northwest Indiana.

Additionally, with regard to policy, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to advocate for provisions regarding prevailing wage and Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), as well as strong Buy America requirements in legislation before your Committee. I also would note the critical importance of the Capital Investment Grant program, which is currently contributing to transformational investments in the South Shore Rail Line that will fundamentally improve the trajectory of the Northwest Indiana economy for the next generation of residents.

As Congress prepares to consider much needed investments in the nation's public-works infrastructure, we must ensure that every American has a good-paying job with safe workplace conditions. Prevailing wage requirements, also known as Davis-Bacon requirements, protect communities and workers from unscrupulous contractors responding to bids on federally-funded projects by setting wage rates to the local or prevailing standard. Additionally, PLAs govern the terms and conditions of employment for union and non-union workers on federally-funded projects, and help eliminate any delays related to labor conflicts or shortages of skilled workers.

I also strongly support rigorous Buy America policies to ensure that our American transportation infrastructure is constructed with American-made iron, steel, and manufacturing products. Domestic content provisions are common-sense and good-government policies that strengthen our national defense, create good-paying jobs, and support a robust national economy. To demonstrate the bipartisan support for strong Buy America requirements, I would like to submit this recent letter circulated to House leadership by the Congressional Steel Caucus, on which I am proud to serve as Co-Chairman. We must ensure that American-made goods are used in taxpayer-financed infrastructure as our nation continues to move ahead to full economic recovery.

Thanks again to Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and all of the Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for the opportunity to testify, and for your dedicated work to grow our economy and improve our transportation infrastructure with transformational projects and policies that will benefit all Americans and future generations.