



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Carpenters and Operating Engineers Support “INVEST in America Act”

**WASHINGTON, DC** – *The following statement was issued today by James T. Callahan, General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers and Douglas J. McCarron, General President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, regarding the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s passage of the “INVEST in America Act:”*

Carpenters and Operating Engineers congratulate the House transportation committee on advancing the “INVEST in America Act.” We especially appreciate the work of Peter DeFazio and Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Chairman DeFazio has assembled a bold, comprehensive blueprint to rebuild transportation infrastructure in every corner of America at a level of investment that meaningfully addresses generations of underinvestment.

The “INVEST Act” raises the bar for bipartisan negotiations by taking a critical step towards reauthorizing America’s biggest infrastructure program with a major investment of \$547 billion.

As mass vaccinations have helped to reopen the country, the construction economy also needs a shot in the arm to recover from the Covid-19 downturn. Substantial capacity exists in the industry to put people to work rebuilding our failing transportation systems. The unemployment rate in construction averaged 8.6% over the past six months and the last two months saw job-loss in the sector. Passing this legislation and investing in our country is an essential step for a healthy economy.

The Carpenters and Operating Engineers urge Members of Congress to move quickly and enact the law before the program expires at the end of September, at which time the Highway Trust Fund faces a dramatic shortfall.

We look forward to working with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, both sides of Capitol Hill, and the White House to make an historic investment in the surface transportation program.

Most Americans agree that our transportation infrastructure should be a national priority. Enough talk, it’s time to get it done.

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**CONTACT:** (IUOE) Jay Lederer, (202) 778-2626, [jlederer@iuoe.org](mailto:jlederer@iuoe.org);  
(UBC) Kyle Makarios, (202) 546-6206 ext. 8312, [kyle.makarios@carpenters.org](mailto:kyle.makarios@carpenters.org)

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*The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) together represent 900,000 working women and men across North America in a range of industry sectors and are two of the continent’s largest construction unions.*