



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

October 21, 2015

JAMES T. CALLAHAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

The Honorable Bill Shuster
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

BRIAN E. HICKEY
GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Honorable Sam Graves
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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GENERAL COUNSEL

BRIAN POWERS

Dear Representatives Shuster, DeFazio, Graves and Holmes Norton:

The International Union of Operating Engineers sincerely appreciates the bipartisan work of the committee leadership to forge agreement on the nation's most import infrastructure program: the highway and transit reauthorization.

Thousands of members of the Operating Engineers depend on the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform (STRR) Act for their livelihoods, and, consequently, there is no more pressing priority for the union than enactment of a long-term highway bill.

The STRR Act provides three years of certainty to transportation planners, the construction industry, and its supply chain. Without a long-term investment in the nation's transportation network, there will be continued uncertainty in America's essential capital investments. The nation simply cannot afford to delay projects, withdraw investment, and lay off workers.

By expediting project delivery and making the approval process more transparent, STRR builds on important successes in MAP-21 – a 27-month authorization that required only one-quarter of the revenue that the current fiscal situation demands. STRR targets resources at projects of national and regional significance.

We encourage the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to pass the legislation, and we look forward to working with you to enact a robust, multi-year highway and transit reauthorization into law as soon as possible.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

James T. Callahan
General President