

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 5, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure

Dear Chair Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

As you work on drafting legislation to reauthorize our nation's surface transportation programs, we urge you to include our policy priorities outlined below to ensure a pro-worker Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill. Our priorities include investing in transportation workers, upholding labor standards on federal projects, maintaining and strengthening domestic content requirements, keeping transportation workers safe, and improving labor protections for transportation workers.

Workers are at the core of every aspect of manufacturing, constructing, and operating our nation's transportation systems, and it's critical that our federal programs support these workers. We made important pro-worker gains in the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* in 2021, and this process should strengthen and build on those gains.

Accordingly, we urge you to include the following Labor Caucus priorities as you draft this Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill:

Invest in Transportation Workers

- **Transit Funding:** provide flexibility to transit agencies to use federal urbanized transit formula funding to support transit operations.
- **Trucking Workforce:** increase federal financial support for high-quality Commercial Drivers License training programs, particularly those operated by labor organizations.
- **Critical Infrastructure Repair and Replacement:** maintain federal commitments for the repair and replacement of critical transportation infrastructure.

Uphold Labor Standards on Federal Projects

- **Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage Standards:** require the consistent application of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage standards for all federally-assisted projects.
- **Project Labor Agreements (PLAs):** maintain the ability of states and localities to use PLAs, where applicable.
- **Apprenticeship:** increase federal investment in Department of Labor (DOL) registered apprenticeship and apprenticeship-readiness programs and expand opportunities to utilize registered apprentices on federally assisted infrastructure projects.

- **Transit and Rail Labor Protections:** defend existing transit and rail labor protections from any attempt to undermine or weaken them.

Maintain and Strengthen Domestic Content Requirements

- **Buy America:** maintain Buy America requirements where applicable; prohibit technical loopholes; end the use of broad waivers; and increase transparency and accountability for waivers.

Keep Transportation Workers and Communities Safe

- **Autonomous Vehicles:** ensure safety of autonomous vehicles (AVs) by requiring public transportation AVs to meet established safety and operational standards.¹
- **Transit and Rail Operator Safety:** improve safety for transit and rail operators, including by implementing minimum vehicle safety design standards for busses, funding for transit ambassadors, and strengthening reporting and response requirements by transit agencies to protect workers from assault on the job.
- **Rail Safety:** include comprehensive rail safety legislation, including key provisions of the bipartisan *Railway Safety Act* and *Railroad Safety Enhancement Act*.²
- **Truck Drivers:** preserve working conditions for truck drivers, including by maintaining existing truck size/weight requirements and hours of service protections.
- **Small Commercial Delivery Vehicles and Contracted Fleets:** improve safety of small commercial delivery vehicles and contracted fleets by requiring DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to study the safety of small commercial delivery vehicles and to collect safety metrics on entities using large numbers of contracted fleets.
- **Road and Highway Worker Safety:** explore existing state level programs to protect heavy and highway construction workers on federal roads and highways.
- **Bridge Corrosion:** strengthen standards for federally funded infrastructure projects by ensuring that critical corrosion prevention work is done by qualified workers using proven techniques.

Improve Labor Protections for Transportation Workers

- **Labor Organization Definition:** define "labor organization" for infrastructure programs by using the definition enshrined in law in 42 USC 18901(15).
- **Rail Worker Labor Protections:** strengthen labor protections for rail workers, including the following:
 - Preserve and reaffirm existing rail worker rights and protections under the Railway Labor Act (RLA), Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), and the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) for workers in non-operating crafts;³

¹ Such standards should include a qualified, certified operator onboard who can take control when necessary and requiring federal grant recipients to submit workforce development plans when purchasing autonomous transit vehicles.

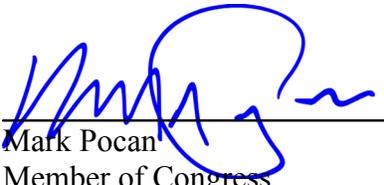
² Such provisions include: mandating two-person crews; requiring the use of defect detectors, installation of train approach warning equipment, and enrollment in the Confidential Close Call Reporting System; requiring Qualified Mechanical Inspectors to perform railcar inspections and an additional daily locomotive inspection; prohibiting unsafe inspection times and unsafe train lengths or weights; increasing penalties for safety violations; retaining visual track inspections alongside any automated inspections; addressing the safety risks of rail automation; and reaffirming that rail unions have the right to call for safety stand-downs in hazardous conditions.

³ Specifically by amending 49 USC 22905(b) to include non-operating crafts.

- Strengthen labor protections for rail workers negatively affected by federal grants;⁴
- Include Amtrak onboard service workers in outsourcing protections by affording these workers the same protections⁵ afforded to mechanical workers; and
- Allow the Surface Transportation Board to review Class I to Class III transactions, including applying labor protections, to address the increased Class I outsourcing of operations that has weakened labor protections.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you on a Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill that supports our nation's transportation workers.

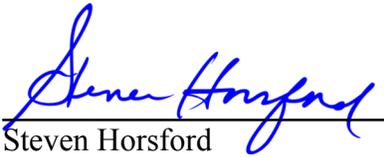
Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

⁴ Apply existing rail labor protections under 49 U.S.C. 22905 to federally-funded projects that affect rail workers.

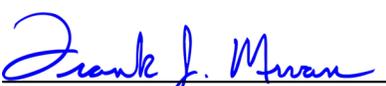
⁵ Outlined in 49 USC 24312 note.



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



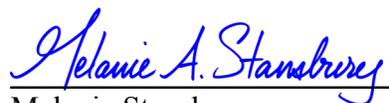
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



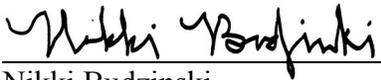
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



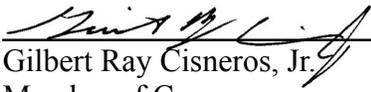
André Carson
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



George Lathrop
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



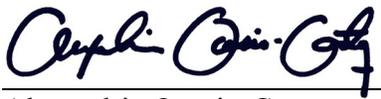
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



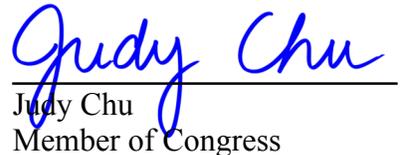
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



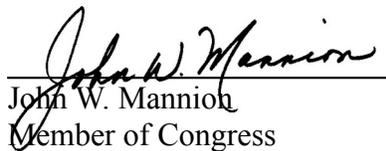
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



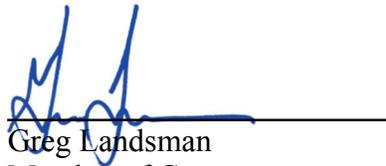
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



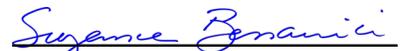
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



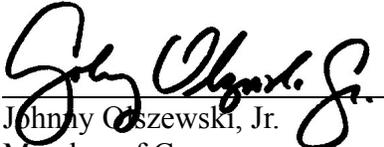
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Johnny Oszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Dwight Evans
Member of Congress


Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress


Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Wesley Bell
Member of Congress


Dina Titus
Member of Congress

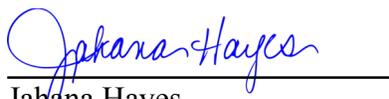

Greg Casar
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress

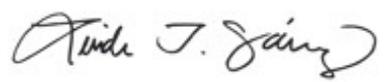

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

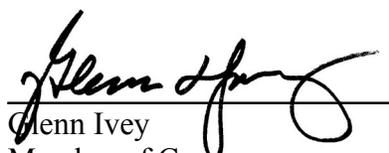

Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress


Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress

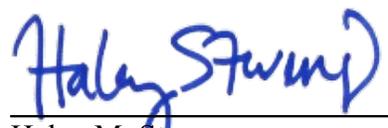

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress


Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress


Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress


Emily Randall
Member of Congress

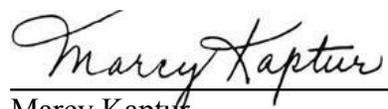

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress


Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

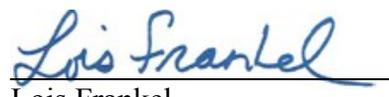

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress


Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress


Lois Frankel
Member of Congress


Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

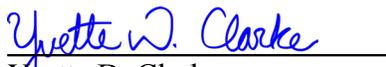

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress


Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress


Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress


Sean Casten
Member of Congress


Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress