



# International Union of Operating Engineers

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

March 21, 2017

JAMES T. CALLAHAN  
GENERAL PRESIDENT

Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member DeFazio:

The International Union of Operating Engineers endorses the "Investing in America: A Penny for Progress" proposal. We appreciate your consistent leadership advocating for increased investments in our nation's transportation infrastructure.

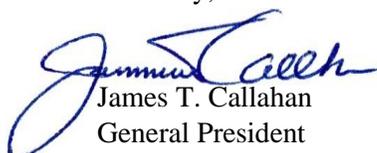
The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) represents nearly 400,000 workers in the United States and Canada, tens of thousands of whom are building North America's transportation network every day. The IUOE is one of this country's largest construction unions. We represent heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and other occupations in the sector, and, needless to say, building transportation infrastructure is the bread and butter of the skilled, proud members of the Operating Engineers union.

The "Penny for Progress" proposal will provide \$500 billion for infrastructure investments through 2030, financed through Invest in America Bonds and repaid through indexing of the gasoline and diesel user fees. This investment will create thousands of good paying jobs for the men and women who will be hired to improve our nation's crumbling highways, bridges and transit systems, including thousands of members of the IUOE.

The International Union of Operating, along with many other stakeholders, have been longtime advocates for raising the gas tax, which has not been increased since 1993 and has lost over 40% of its purchasing power since that time. Gradually increasing the gas tax will have little effect on American households. The cost of doing nothing, however, will result in households losing \$3,400 annually in disposable income, as your constituents spend more time in traffic, incur more damage to their vehicles, and expose their families to unsafe road conditions.

The International Union of Operating Engineers supports your legislation and appreciates your leadership to fix America's crumbling infrastructure. We look forward to working with you to enact the "Investing in America: A Penny for Progress" proposal this Congress.

Sincerely,

  
James T. Callahan  
General President

BRIAN E. HICKEY  
GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENTS

JERRY KALMAR

RUSSELL E. BURNS

JAMES M. SWEENEY

ROBERT T. HEENAN

DANIEL J. MCGRAW

DAREN KONOPASKI

MICHAEL GALLAGHER

GREG LALEVEE

TERRANCE E. MCGOWAN

LOUIS G. RASETTA

MARK MAIERLE

RANDY GRIFFIN

DOUGLAS W. STOCKWELL

RONALD J. SIKORSKI

TRUSTEES

KUBA J. BROWN

CHAIRMAN

BRUCE MOFFATT

JAMES T. KUNZ, JR.

JOSEPH SHANAHAN

EDWARD J. CURLY

GENERAL COUNSEL

BRIAN POWERS

