March 21, 2017

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 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