

June 8, 2021

Via Email

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves Ranking Member Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The undersigned labor organizations wish to express our support for the INVEST in America Act, H.R. 3684, as the bill goes to markup on Wednesday, while emphasizing our commitment to the Buy America provisions currently included in the legislation. These domestic procurement provisions show a strong commitment to American manufacturing and American workers.

In particular, we support the expansion of Buy America to include construction materials for highway projects and ask that you resist any efforts made by particular industries to carve out exclusions for certain products. The bill gives the Secretary of Transportation broad flexibility and discretion to address any and all industry concerns. When 4 out of 5 voters favor spending state and federal tax dollars on American-made goods whenever possible, industry associations representing multi-national companies should not create unnecessary legislative loopholes to undercut domestic jobs. Carving out any particular products opens an unnecessary and job undermining door for additional carve outs.

American workers, both union and non-union, want to provide the necessary domestic materials for infrastructure and construction, while allowing reasonable waiver flexibility to ensure that we maximize domestic supply chains and build back better. Sectors such as steel, concrete, asphalt, aggregates, and others throughout the transportation supply chain are highly unionized and support high road, family sustaining jobs. We urge you to continue your support for Buy America.

Sincerely,

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (Boilermakers)
Transport Workers Union of America (TWU)
United Steelworkers (USW)

¹ https://www.americanmanufacturing.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/AAM_Poll2014_FactSheet.pdf