



Good Jobs
Healthy Communities
A Voice for Working Families

815 16th St. NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-637-5188
aflcio.org/issues/manufacturing

Chair: **Roxanne Brown**
International President, USW

Vice Chair: **Brian Bryant**
International President, IAM Union

Unions

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco
Workers and Grain Millers
International Union (BCTGM)

Communications Workers of
America (IUE-CWA)

International Association of
Machinists and Aerospace
Workers (IAM Union)

International Association of
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and
Transportation Workers (SMART)

International Brotherhood of
Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders,
Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers
(IBB)

International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers (IBEW)

International Federation of
Professional and Technical
Engineers (IFPTE)

International Union, United
Automobile, Aerospace and
Agricultural Implement Workers
of America (UAW)

United Food and Commercial
Workers International Union
(UFCW)

United Mine Workers of America
(UMWA)

United Steelworkers of America
(USW)

Utility Workers Union of America
(UWUA)

April 23, 2026

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, which brings together twelve unions from the industrial sector representing over 4 million members, we write to express our strong support for Build America, Buy America policies as Congress prepares for the upcoming surface transport reauthorization bill. Robust investments, coupled with domestic content preferences, are key to growing our middle class and strengthening the resiliency of our infrastructure and the critical supply chains on which it relies.

For over four decades, Buy America policies have supported workers producing the iron, steel and rolling stock for surface transportation infrastructure projects. These commonsense policies have been expanded over the years, seeding domestic manufacturers and fostering upstream supply chains as well as growing out our domestic base of water infrastructure producers. In 2021, the AFL-CIO supported the passage of the Build America, Buy America provisions of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that expanded coverage to all federally assisted infrastructure projects and to manufactured products and additional construction materials. We must preserve this achievement by continuing efforts to close administratively-created loopholes that undermine these pro-worker preferences and working with agencies to ensure effective, transparent implementation.

Domestic content policies align the spending of hard-earned tax dollars with our values by ensuring domestic producers and America's workers have the first shot at supplying goods and services purchased with taxpayer dollars. A significant investment in our infrastructure, coupled with strong Buy America application, in the upcoming reauthorization will drive demand for U.S.-made iron and steel, rolling stock, manufactured products, and construction materials. When we buy American, we are reducing our exposure to the risks posed by dependence on far-flung, and often unreliable, supply chains. At the same time, we know the products and materials being purchased are made in facilities that adhere to U.S. labor, environmental, and health and safety standards.

We look forward to working with Congress as they develop this legislation to drive our economy forward over the next half decade. By reinvesting our taxpayer dollars here at home, we are investing in

family- and community-sustaining union jobs at factories that are often far less polluting, and far safer for workers, than competitors overseas. Thus, we urge the preservation of Buy America policies to maximize the impact of these investments, strengthening critical supply chains and supporting thousands of good jobs in communities across our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Brown', with a stylized, flowing script.

Roxanne Brown

International President, USW

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Bryant', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brian Bryant

International President, IAM