



Founded 1889

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

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TO: General Officers, Directors, International Representatives, Special Representatives, and Local Union Business Managers
FROM: General President Mark McManus
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SUBJ: Update on Biden-Harris Administration Delivering for UA Members

Two years into the Biden-Harris Administration, and United Association members are seeing historic wins that lead to more work, better wages, and a stronger UA. President Biden promised to be the most pro-union and pro-UA president in history – and he’s delivering.

Passing Historic Infrastructure Funding with Strong Labor Protections

- Every recent president promised to modernize our infrastructure and finally restore the United States as a world leader. Under President Trump, GP McManus was even invited into the Oval Office on his first day as president, where he promised the UA and other building trades union presidents that he would get infrastructure done.
- Sadly, President Trump failed to deliver – just like each previous president before him.
- President Biden kept his promise, and in just two short years delivered massive investments in infrastructure not seen since Eisenhower created the Interstate Highway System and Roosevelt passed the New Deal.
- More importantly, all the infrastructure funding included strong labor protections like Davis-Bacon prevailing wage, the use of project labor agreements (PLAs), and registered apprenticeship requirements.

A Detailed Breakdown of the Three Main Infrastructure Bills

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was the first of three massive victories for UA members when it comes to creating infrastructure jobs and protecting our way of life. We worked hand-in-hand with the White House and with both sides of the aisle in Congress to ensure the bill included strong labor protections and funding for UA projects.
- Included in the more than \$1 trillion in funding are direct investments in nearly every industry we serve including clean water infrastructure, carbon capture technologies, energy efficiency, heating, and HVAC-R, hydrogen, geothermal, natural gas, and nuclear, to name a few.





- Here's a more direct breakdown of the historic funding levels that will lead to millions of UA manhours:
 - \$19.7 billion for water infrastructure including funding for State Revolving Funds and WIFIA grants all with labor protections like Davis-Bacon attached.
 - \$50 billion for water resiliency.
 - \$1.15 billion for water storage, groundwater storage, and conveyance projects.
 - \$15 billion for lead line replacement.
 - \$10 billion to address PFAS and emerging contaminants.
 - \$60 billion for new and emerging energy sources.
 - \$9.5 billion for carbon capture sequestration.
 - \$3.5 billion for energy efficiency including heating and HVAC.
 - \$8 billion for four clean hydrogen hubs to demonstrate the production, processing, delivery, storage, and end-use of clean hydrogen.
 - \$500 million for clean hydrogen manufacturing and recycling.
 - \$150 million for a Long-Duration Demonstration Initiative and Joint Program for energy storage.
 - \$10 million for a pumped storage demonstration project to facilitate long-duration storage of intermittent renewable energy (hydropower).
 - \$84 million for testing geothermal projects.
 - \$11 billion for small modular reactors and existing nuclear plants.
 - \$1 billion for gas distribution infrastructure projects.
 - \$4.7 billion for repair of existing natural gas pipelines.

Inflation Reduction Act

- After we secured the massive wins in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we were able to work directly with the Biden-Harris Administration to deliver even more funding for UA energy projects in the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Most importantly, all the funding for these projects included strong labor protections like Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements and the use of registered apprenticeships.
- As you can see below, this funding will lead to millions more UA manhours on critical energy projects:
 - \$30 billion in production tax credits for batteries, critical minerals, and renewables.
 - \$10 billion investment tax credit for construction of manufacturing facilities.
 - \$8 billion for hydrogen production tax credit.
 - \$5.8 billion for decarbonization in the industrial sector.
 - \$5 billion for natural gas plant upgrades.
 - \$1.5 billion for methane emissions reduction.
 - \$1 billion for retrofitting buildings.
 - \$500 million for heat pumps.



CHIPS And Science Act

- The CHIPS And Science Act delivered massive funding levels for the next generation of American manufacturing and the critical semiconductor industry. As the best trained and most highly skilled craftspeople in the industry, UA members are relied upon to construct the massive state-of-the-art facilities required to produce semiconductors.
- Already, companies are making huge investments in these facilities thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration's leadership, including new projects in Ohio, New York, and Arizona – where the UA is leading the way forward.
- Included in the more than \$200 billion total investment over the next five years, designed to help the U.S. regain a leading position in semiconductor chip manufacturing:
 - \$39 billion in manufacturing incentives.
 - \$10 billion for regional innovation hubs.
 - \$11 billion for workforce development.
 - \$2 billion to strengthen small manufacturers.

Revoking Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs)

- President Biden took action to protect the gold-standard status of the UA's training and apprenticeship program by revoking the IRAPs rule proposed during the Trump Administration. The IRAPs rule would have severely weakened industry standards for registered apprenticeships. Instead, the Biden-Harris Administration stood with workers to protect our apprenticeship programs and way of life.

Protecting and saving the Multiemployer Pension System

- The last few presidents each promised to save the pension system, but only President Biden delivered. His stimulus package included \$86 billion for the multiemployer pension system, effectively saving the entire system and ensuring millions of workers – and countless UA members – will be able to retire with dignity and the pensions they earned.

Executive Order Strengthening PLAs

- Among President Biden's many Executive Orders in his first few months protecting workers, he issued an Executive Order to strengthen Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) that was one of the most significant actions taken by a president in generations. The Biden-Harris Administration has already demonstrated its commitment to creating good-paying union jobs, and this action to strengthen PLAs directly translates to more UA jobs with better wages and benefits.

Commitment to Replacing All Lead Pipes in the U.S.

- President Biden and Vice President Harris have made it a priority to replace all lead service lines in the United States, so that every community has access to clean and safe water.
- As a result of this push, the UA has played an essential role in the government's efforts to replace lead service lines.



- The White House ensured billions of dollars in grant funding for communities to replace lead service lines, often with strong labor protections attached.
- Even more, GP McManus participated in a panel discussion at the White House with Vice President Harris, EPA Administrator Regan, and local elected officials from around the country to demonstrate our leadership in protecting the nation's water supply and access to clean and safe water.

Prioritizing Bipartisan and Common-sense Permitting Reform for Energy Projects

- Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration, we are delivering an all-of-the-above energy approach with strong labor protections that ensures the future of American energy infrastructure is built by the men and women of the United Association.
- Now, the Biden-Harris Administration is working to deliver common-sense and bipartisan permitting reform that will truly unlock the potential of American energy infrastructure.
- After continuous outreach to the UA and a careful consideration of our own permitting reform principles, the White House issued a set of priorities to guide the creation of meaningful permitting reform legislation that will reduce unnecessary delays and help more projects get underway sooner.
- These priorities include several UA proposals, including:
 - Accelerating energy project permitting on federal lands,
 - Deploying hydrogen and carbon dioxide infrastructure,
 - Improving permitting efficiency through programmatic reviews with a predictable timetable,
 - Establishing long term programmatic reviews so that the analysis required can be used for five years,
 - Cutting duplicative and burdensome reviews.

Case-by-Case Approach to Pipeline Decisions – and Support for PennEast and DAPL

- While the Biden-Harris Administration pulled the permits for the Keystone XL pipeline, they remain committed to a case-by-case approach to pipeline decisions. More importantly, they have backed recent pipeline projects that put UA members to work:
 - Dakota Access Pipeline, where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports continued operation during pending court cases; and
 - PennEast, where the U.S. government and the Biden-Harris Administration backed the project and supported eminent domain.

Case-by-Case Approach to Pipeline Decisions – and FERC Approval Process

- As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's case-by-case approach to the pipeline approval process, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved two new pipeline projects after a thorough review process. The Administration remains committed to evaluating the merits of each individual pipeline project, as demonstrated by the review and approval for these two projects:
 - Tuscarora XPress Pipeline expansion; and
 - Northern Lights pipeline expansion.



Case-by-Case Approach to Energy Project Approvals: Willow Project in Alaska

- During the campaign and transition period, President Biden promised to follow a case-by-case approval process for energy projects. So far, he has kept his word on critical pipeline decisions and new energy projects.
- The UA and our Brothers and Sisters in Alaska worked hard to secure final approval for ConocoPhillips' Willow Project in Alaska, which will put thousands of UA members to work delivering reliable and affordable energy.
- Thanks to our efforts and the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to an all-of-the-above energy approach, the Administration provided final approval and construction on Willow is officially underway after years of unnecessary delays.

Case-by-Case Approach to Energy Project Approvals: Mountain Valley Pipeline

- The Biden-Harris Administration provided critical permit approvals to complete the Mountain Valley Pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia.
- Even more, Energy Secretary Granholm has repeatedly defended the project and is working diligently to ensure its completion.

Funding to Modernize and Expand Our Nuclear Fleet

- As part of the all-of-the-above energy approach, President Biden recognizes the important role nuclear energy will play for generations to come. As such, he has made robust commitments and investments to modernize our existing fleet and to expand the use of small modular reactors (SMRs).

Visits to UA Halls, Training Centers, and Jobsites Across the Country

- President Biden and Vice President Harris have frequently visited UA halls, training centers, and jobsites across the country to see firsthand the work we do, and to deliver important speeches on the future of our economy and infrastructure.
- At these events, several UA members have had the opportunity to introduce President Biden and to show both the President and Vice President what our daily lives look like.
- President Biden has visited UA Local 5, UA Local 85, UA Local 469, and UA Local 602. Vice President Harris has visited UA Local 189.

Expansion of Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage with New Department of Labor Rulemaking

- President Biden did not just ensure Davis-Bacon prevailing wage provisions were included on the critical infrastructure bills; he made sure that the Department of Labor protected and updated the Davis-Bacon rulemaking for the first time in generations.
- More importantly, the Department of Labor sought out the UA for input on this rulemaking to ensure its long-term success and importance to our industries.



Appointing Two UA Members to Transition Agency Review Teams

- During the transition period, then-President-elect Biden appointed two UA members to the Agency Review Teams:
 - Former Director of Pipeline and Gas Distribution Dave Barnett to the Department of Transportation Review Team
 - VIP Program Administrator Mike Hazard to the Department of Labor Review Team.
- These two appointments ensured that UA members had a direct voice in the earliest stages of the Biden-Harris Administration, shaping the policy directions and personnel decisions from Day 1.

Appointing UA Members to Various Government Bodies

- UA Director of Education and Training Ray Boyd was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships, where he works to protect and expand our registered apprenticeship model.
- UA Director of Gas and Pipeline Distribution Chad Gilbert was appointed to the PHMSA Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee, where he works to improve and streamline our natural gas and pipeline infrastructure regulations.
- Special Representatives Jeremy Moddrell and Kyle Henderson were appointed to new Carbon Capture Task Forces, where they work to provide recommendations to the federal government on the development and permitting of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects.
- With these four UA members in critical positions across the government, the UA has a strong voice in the important policy decision making process for many of our industries.

President Biden Meeting with GP McManus in Oval Office to Discuss UA Jobs

- Less than one month into the Administration, President Biden and Vice President Harris invited UA GP McManus into the Oval Office to discuss infrastructure, energy priorities, and UA jobs.
- This direct line of access to the President and Vice President means that GP McManus can fight for UA jobs directly – and more effectively. In this meeting, he fought for strong labor protections on all federally funded projects, an all-of-the-above energy approach, and protecting the rights of unions to organize.

Increasing Competition and Strengthening Buy America

- President Biden issued an Executive Order to increase competition in the American economy through a wide range of programs that will lead to higher wages, better benefits, and more jobs for our members. The Executive Order took action to crack down on wage and benefit suppression.

Approving Most Oil and Gas Permits Since President Bush

- President Biden's case-by-case approach to energy permitting decisions continues to create good-paying jobs for UA members, as his Administration is currently on pace to approve more annual drilling permits since the George W. Bush Administration.



- Through July 13, 2021, President Biden had already approved 2,488 drilling permits – roughly the same number of approvals in all of President Trump’s first year in office. Thanks to the case-by-case approach President Biden promised, we are seeing an unprecedented boom in oil and gas projects, meaning more manhours for UA members.

Meetings and Access to Cabinet Secretaries and White House Senior Staff

- During the transition period and throughout the first two years in office, the UA has had unprecedented access to Cabinet secretaries, nominees, and senior staff.
- GP McManus met with nominees for Secretaries of Energy, Interior, Labor, and Transportation, as well as high-level officials in the White House.
- At the staff level, the UA continues to meet with the White House regularly to advocate for UA jobs.
- The UA continues to have a direct line to senior officials in government, meaning our voice is constantly at the table for important policy decisions.

Confirming Building Trades Member Marty Walsh as Secretary of Labor

- After four years of anti-union and anti-worker leadership at the Department of Labor, President Biden moved quickly to confirm card-carrying building trades member and former Mayor of Boston Marty Walsh as Secretary of Labor.
- Secretary Walsh took action to reverse anti-worker policies within the Department of Labor and to create more good-paying UA jobs. Under his leadership, the Department of Labor:
 - Strengthened registered apprenticeships,
 - Expanded Davis-Bacon prevailing wage laws,
 - Undid anti-worker Trump Administration rules on IRAPs, independent contractors, and overtime pay, and
 - Strengthened the rights of all workers to organize and fight for better wages and better working conditions.

Supporting the PRO Act and the Right to Collectively Bargain

- The Biden-Harris Administration has made it the official policy of the United States Government to support workers’ rights to collectively bargain. Even more, they fully support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act – the most sweeping pro-union legislation in generations.

Firing anti-union NLRB General Counsel Peter Robb – and Replacing with Union Lawyer

- On one of his first days in office, President Biden fired anti-union and anti-worker National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) General Counsel Peter Robb and replaced him with a union lawyer, Jennifer Abruzzo. This General Counsel position is a critical role within the NLRB to strengthen the rights of workers everywhere.



New Head of Wage and Hour Division at DOL Recommended by UA

- Within the Department of Labor, President Biden appointed Jessica Looman, the new Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division – which, among other things, protects and enforces Davis-Bacon prevailing wage laws and fights worker misclassification.
- This Administrator was recommended to President Biden by the UA and the Minnesota Pipe Trades – showing once again the strong role the UA plays in shaping the policies coming from the Biden-Harris Administration.
- Under her leadership, the UA has worked directly with the Department of Labor to expand prevailing wage provisions and crack down on unscrupulous contractors and wage theft.

Repealing the Independent Contractor/Worker Misclassification Rule at DOL

- The Department of Labor, led by building trades member Marty Walsh, undid a Trump Administration rule that made it easier for unscrupulous contractors to misclassify workers as contractors.
- Instead, the Biden-Harris Administration is taking steps to ensure all workers have a fair shot and ability to earn family-sustaining wages.

Reversal of Anti-ESG Factors Rule and Proxy Voting Rule

- As part of their efforts to undo harmful anti-worker policies enacted during the previous administration, the Biden-Harris Administration took steps to undo a rule that was designed to prevent the retirement and other fringe benefit funds of UA members from considering investments in infrastructure and other funds that create jobs for UA members.
- The Biden-Harris Administration simultaneously initiated action to reverse a rule that would have prevented our retirement and other funds from exercising their shareholder rights in corporate board rooms.

White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment

- The Biden-Harris Administration created the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, chaired by Vice President Harris and Secretary of Labor Walsh, to take a whole-of-government approach to empower workers. The task force will help ensure the rights of all workers to collectively bargain and be heard.

COVID Response

- On the heels of a deadly global pandemic, President Biden proposed a response and recovery plan that puts workers first. Building trades members – like the UA – were prioritized for COVID vaccines, and the infrastructure package he put together to jumpstart our economy and to build back better is led by the men and women of the UA.



American Rescue Plan: Direct Checks, Unemployment Insurance, Expanded Child Tax Credit

- Before any meaningful recovery plan could take root, the Biden-Harris Administration first had to provide direct assistance to millions of Americans.
- In President Biden's stimulus package, the American Rescue Plan, he provided direct checks to Americans, improved unemployment insurance with tax forgiveness, and an expansion of the child tax credit – all critical steps that put the men and women of the UA first.

Support for Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act

- President Biden has a long history of supporting fire safety measures, and his support for the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act is no different. The act provides funding and helps accelerate building retrofits, creating good-paying jobs for UA sprinklerfitters.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act

- The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act builds on President Biden's call to build back better and provides funding to update aging systems, invest in new technologies, expand access to marginalized communities, and replace lead pipes. The bill includes strong labor protections, meaning UA members will win more work modernizing and replacing our nation's infrastructure with fair wages and benefits.

Waivers for Canadian Members

- With members in the U.S. and Canada, the Biden-Harris Administration's support for waivers for Canadian members to work on jobsites in the U.S. is critical. Simply put, the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to strengthening labor standards and putting more UA members to work – on both sides of the border.

Labor Standards on Clean Energy Projects

- The all-of-the-above energy approach includes strong support for a robust set of labor protections. The Biden-Harris Administration is putting workers first with its support for labor protections like prevailing wage, the use of registered apprenticeships, and project labor agreements.
- As we continue to meet with the White House and Congressional offices, these labor standards on clean energy projects will be a critical piece of President Biden's plans to modernize our infrastructure.

The Biden-Harris Administration has already taken concrete steps to not only strengthen the rights of workers to organize, but to create good-paying UA jobs and modernize our nation's aging infrastructure. These legislative actions and policies will continue to put UA members first and help ensure the strength of our union for generations to come.