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Building and Construction Trades Department

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May 24, 2010

United States Congress
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge your support and swift passage of H.R. 4213, the Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. In the construction industry more than 1 in 4 workers are still unemployed. While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1) made a significant and robust investment in infrastructure and strengthened the social safety net, unemployment still remains at Depression levels.

H.R. 4213 continues some of those investments in infrastructure, and ensures that unemployed workers will not fall through the cracks during this period of high unemployment. Most leading economists and the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office believe that spending in these two areas has the greatest multiplier effect for each dollar spent by the government. While some argue that the government should not invest any more money in an economic recovery, that option is completely unacceptable to us and our unemployed construction workers.

The Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act extends Unemployment Insurance and COBRA subsidies through the end of the year. These programs have had an overwhelmingly positive effect on the health of the economy, and the ability of working families to make ends meet during these trying times.

Furthermore, many of our pension funds were devastated by the duplicitous dealings and fraud that was being perpetrated by Wall Street. H.R. 4213 brings needed stability to those funds to ensure that they can deal with the effects of a recession created by the financial industry. With these provisions, businesses and workers will be on a sound footing to help restore our economy.

I urge swift passage of H.R. 4213, the Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010 to help alleviate the pain that unemployed construction workers are experiencing across the country.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Ayers
President