

MARK H. AYERS, President
SEAN MCGARVEY, Secretary-Treasurer

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN, 1st Vice President
JOHN J. FLYNN, 2nd Vice President
DANA A. BRIGHAM, 3rd Vice President
EDWIN D. HILL, 4th Vice President
JOSEPH J. HUNT, 5th Vice President



JAMES A. GROGAN, 6th Vice President
JAMES A. WILLIAMS, 7th Vice President
NEWTON B. JONES, 8th Vice President
WILLIAM P. HITE, 9th Vice President
KINSEY M. ROBINSON, 10th Vice President
PATRICK D. FINLEY, 11th Vice President
JAMES P. HOFFA, 12th Vice President
TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN, 13th Vice President

Building and Construction Trades Department

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR—CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS
815 SIXTEENTH ST., N.W., SUITE 600 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-4104

(202) 347-1461

www.BCTD.org

FAX (202) 628-0724

April 29, 2008

Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

Working American families are in need of help. A recent New York Times article stated that March endured the largest job loss, 86,000, in the last five years. Congressional action is needed to not only create construction jobs, but assist in our nation's capacity to build and sustain a skilled workforce – a critical component to reversing our economic fortunes.

The 13 national and international unions that comprise the Building and Construction Trades Department are in full support of HR. 3021, the 21st Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act and the Loeb sack-Kildee Education and Labor Committee substitute set to be marked up by the Full House Education and Labor Committee on Wednesday April 30th.

The initial Economic Stimulus package (H.R. 5140), while helpful, is unlikely to affect short-term job growth and spur the economy out of this downturn. What we need right now is a stimulus package that immediately creates jobs and jumpstarts economic activity. This can be done, in large part, by investing in our nation's depleted infrastructure.

Additionally, the Building and Construction Trades Department also believes that the long-term health of our economy requires a substantive investment in the structural rehabilitation and renovation of our nation's public schools. This will have the desired result of immediately creating jobs and economic activity, as well as helping to provide a safer, healthier and modern learning environment that will enable children to thrive in the classroom.

By providing \$6.4 Billion of direct investment to critical school repairs, we can encourage local, state and regional economic activity, while providing an enhanced learning environment for our teachers and schoolchildren. Such an investment will result in more qualified students choosing a viable and secure career path in our skilled craft apprenticeship programs, which will help us meet the tremendous need for a skilled craft workforce over the next twenty years.

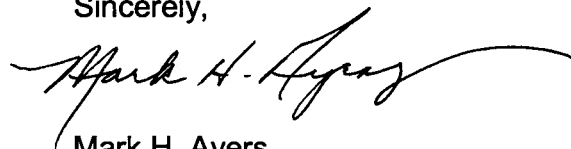
Investing resources in infrastructure projects like school renovation creates immediate and tangible benefits. Studies have shown that over 40,000 jobs are created for every billion dollars invested, meaning that the Loeb sack-Kildee amendment would provide 269,440 jobs a year. Clearly, that is a sound investment in our economy.

The renovation and rebuilding of public schools generally is done during the summer recess to ensure that classrooms are improved prior to the next school year. HR. 3021 will immediately employ hardworking men and women, yield completed projects in a few months, and stimulate economic activity.

The Building and Construction Trades Department AFL-CIO urges the House Education and Labor Committee to adopt HR. 3021 and the Loeb sack-Kildee amendment, and in so doing take the first important step towards stimulating our failing economy, investing in future generations, and putting hard working Americans immediately to work.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Ayers", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark H. Ayers
President

MHA/wcy