



UNITED ASSOCIATION

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

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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 states 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 United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices and their 340,000 members 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 (HR 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 United Association 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.

April 29, 2008
House Education & Labor
HR 3021

By providing \$6.4 billion in 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 school children. 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 United Association 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 forward in stimulating our failing economy, investing in future generations, and putting hard working Americans immediately to work.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. Hite". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William P. Hite
General President
United Association

WPH:paw