

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM)—a labor-management partnership forged between some of America's leading manufacturing companies and the United Steelworkers—I write to express our strong support for the *Invest in American Jobs Act of 2013*.

Our Buy America laws ensure that tax dollars support good, quality jobs right here at home. But loopholes and exemptions have weakened these laws over time, allowing more of the public's money to be sent overseas to purchase steel and manufactured goods from foreign sources.

There are also gaps in our infrastructure spending and financing programs where a Buy America preference should, but does not currently, exist. And even with a strong Buy America preference in place, improved transparency would do much to ensure uniform application of the law. **To boost the job-creating potential of infrastructure investment, Congress should quickly take up and pass the *Invest in American Jobs Act of 2013*.**

- **Strengthen Coverage.** The bill strengthens existing Buy America preferences for federal infrastructure investments, ensuring that our highways, bridges, public transit, rail systems, and aviation infrastructure and equipment are truly "Made in America" with domestic iron, steel, and manufactured goods.
- **Consistent Application.** The bill closes significant loopholes and ensures that transportation and infrastructure investments made with railroad loans and loan guarantees, water infrastructure grants, Economic Development Administration grants, FEMA mitigation grants, and Truman-Hobbs bridge alteration grants use domestic content.
- **Improved Transparency.** The bill requires Federal agencies to justify any proposed Buy America waivers and allows the American public to submit comments prior to their approval, bringing much-needed accountability to the waiver process and giving American companies and workers a voice at the table.

Buy America preferences are the most effective way to ensure that American businesses and workers benefit when our hard-earned tax dollars are spent. According to research conducted for AAM, maximizing the use of domestic content with a Buy America preference yields a 33 percent increase in manufacturing job creation. In addition, polling conducted for AAM in 2012 demonstrates broad bipartisan support for strong Buy America laws spread evenly across party, geography, and

demographic backgrounds. In fact 87 percent of voters support policies to ensure that taxpayer-funded projects use American-made goods and materials.

Again, we strongly urge passage of the *Invest in American Jobs Act of 2013*. Every effort should be made to ensure that the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used to build and repair our nation's roads, bridges, highways, railways, water infrastructure, and other critical infrastructure are produced in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott N. Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

Scott N. Paul
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives