



# OREGON IRON WORKS, INC.

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Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall II  
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2307  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Rahall,

Oregon Iron Works, and our subsidiary United Streetcar, are writing to express our strong support for the *Invest in American Jobs Act of 2013*. The United States Buy America laws have been weakened over time by loopholes and other exemptions that result in job losses for our employees; and more of our tax dollars being sent to purchase steel and manufactured goods made overseas.

The *Invest in American Jobs Act of 2013* will strengthen domestic procurement requirements for investments in highway, bridge, public transit, intercity passenger rail, and aviation infrastructure and equipment programs, while providing critical support for companies, such as ours, that manufacture products here in the United States. This legislation also uniformly applies Buy America requirements to additional programs under the Department of Transportation and imposes greater transparency in the Buy America waiver process, further maximizing its economic impact, helping ensure that taxpayer dollars actually go to direct job creation.

Buy America provisions are an excellent way to ensure that American businesses and workers benefit when tax dollars are spent. According to research, maximizing the use of domestic content with a Buy America preference yields a 33 percent increase in manufacturing job creation. Strengthening Buy America policies also provide innovation and productivity benefits. Manufacturing is responsible for 70 percent of all private-sector research and development spending and 90 percent of all American patents. Manufacturing is also a productivity powerhouse and major driver of economic growth. Every dollar in final sales of manufactured products supports \$1.37 in other sectors of the economy, compared to about 50 cents for every dollar of activity in the financial services sector.

As Congress moves to reauthorize our surface transportation laws, we encourage that every effort should be made to ensure that **all** of the iron, steel and manufactured goods used to build and repair our nation's roads, bridges, highways, railways, and other infrastructure are produced in the United States; so we can put people back to work and help restore American manufacturing as the engine for economic growth. Oregon Iron Works and United Streetcar support your efforts and appreciates your commitment to strengthening the Buy America requirements.

Sincerely,

**OREGON IRON WORKS, INC.**

**Thomas J Hickman**  
Vice President Sales and Marketing