

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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December 6, 2011

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
Ranking Minority Member  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing in support of the Invest in American Jobs Act of 2011, H.R. 3533. This legislation is long overdue. The bill ensures that all future U.S. transportation investments covering highways, bridges, mass transit, high-speed and inter-city passenger rail, and aviation all use steel, iron, and manufactured goods produced in the U.S.

With the nation's unemployment rate still hovering at an unacceptably high level, this bill will ensure that public investments in the nation's infrastructure will create and preserve U.S. jobs by enforcing current Buy America statutes and extending these requirements to other transportation and infrastructure investments.

As a union that represents workers in mass transit, rail, and aviation, we applaud this effort. For too many years, Buy America statutes have not been enforced by federal agencies and waivers given too often to circumvent the law.

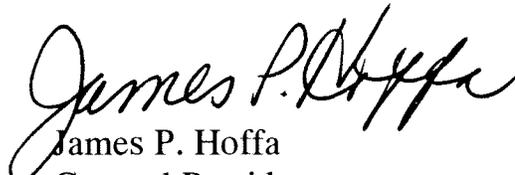
H.R. 3533 requires federal agencies to justify proposed Buy America waivers and provides an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed waivers. The bill also requires agencies to provide an employment impact analysis on the effect of all Buy America waivers on manufacturing employment in the U.S. In addition, the bill eliminates Amtrak's exemption from these requirements for capital projects that cost less than \$1 million, as well as a similar exemption for high-speed and inter-city passenger rail projects that cost less than \$100,000.

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An estimated 5 million jobs have been lost in the manufacturing sector in the past decade. This legislation would ensure that public investments in improving the nation's infrastructure will help put Americans back to work. It also makes sure taxpayer funds are not going to pay for materials produced overseas, such as steel imported from China.

We strongly applaud this effort and thank you for your leadership on this important initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa P. Kinard, Director, Department of Federal Legislation and Regulation, at (202) 624-6890.

Sincerely,



James P. Hoffa  
General President

JPH/lpk