

NCA

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NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE

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July 20, 2007

Dear Representative:

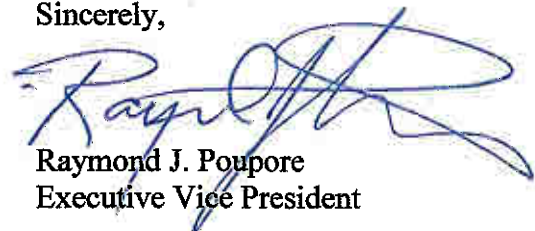
As three of the largest construction unions, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Union of Operating Engineers, and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America have led the fight for many years to increase federal infrastructure investment to address this country's infrastructure needs. From that perspective, we urge your support for H.R. 2419, the "Farm Bill Extension Act of 2007."

While we normally do not find ourselves advocating positions within the context of an agricultural bill, H.R. 2419 addresses a serious infrastructure need by providing for \$2 billion in federal loan guarantees for bio-refineries and bio-fuel production plants. This important policy initiative, contained within the energy title, will provide necessary federal construction assistance to help the agricultural community build these critical alternative energy facilities. In this way, the farm bill will address significant environmental concerns in terms of carbon emissions and global warming.

In addition, Chairman Peterson is to be commended for recognizing the long-standing federal policy of providing Davis-Bacon prevailing wage protections to federally assisted construction programs. Twice on the floor of the House in the 110th Congress, large, bi-partisan majorities have preserved Davis-Bacon prevailing wage coverage from attack on both an authorizing bill and an appropriation bill. As Chairman Peterson stated in his own Dear Colleague on March 8th opposing any amendment to weaken Davis-Bacon on the Clean Water Act reauthorization: ". . .repealing Davis-Bacon laws won't actually save small and rural communities any money in the cost of construction. . .but it will take money out of the workers' pockets in those same small and rural communities."

Accordingly, we urge your strong support for H.R. 2419, as reported by the Committee, because of its important construction component for alternative energy and the protection of the living standards of rural America's construction workers.

Sincerely,



Raymond J. Poupore
Executive Vice President



Laborers' International Union
of North America



International Union
of Operating Engineers



United Brotherhood
of Carpenters & Joiners
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