

Contact: David Miller at (202) 942-2285, (202) 413-1775 or davidmiller@liuna.org

LIUNA Launches “Build Indiana 2010” To Get Hoosiers Back To Work

Statewide Campaign Is Key Part of National Effort to Solidify Support in U.S. Senate for Investment in the Basics of Indiana and America

Initiative Kicks Off With Billboards Warning of Structurally Deficient Bridges, Aggressive Ad Campaign, Member Mobilization

Indianapolis, Ind. (July 7, 2010) – LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – led a broad coalition of allies today in kicking off “*Build Indiana 2010*,” a comprehensive campaign to create over 450,000 jobs in Indiana by winning support in the U.S. Senate for legislation that will put people back to work building the critical infrastructure of the state and the nation.

Over two hundred LIUNA members, joined by elected officials, local business leaders, the Sierra Club and union officials, launched Build Indiana 2010 within sight of the I-65 bridge at East Southport Road – one of 4,111 bridges in the state that are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Billboards warning motorists of structurally deficient bridges, now appearing across the state, are a “conversation starter” aimed at raising awareness of the needs facing Indiana and America and urging people to contact U.S. Senators Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar and ask them to champion the cause of creating jobs and getting America’s economy moving again.

“Today in Indiana, one in four construction workers are out of work, while one in four bridges are in need of repair. All that’s missing is the commitment to invest in building our country and our state,” said David Frye, field representative for LIUNA’s Indiana District Council. “We’re ready to work. We’re ready to build Indiana.”

Build Indiana 2010 also includes radio ads airing throughout the state, online advertising and mobilization of thousands of LIUNA members in Indiana who began their outreach to Senators Bayh and Lugar at the launch event, placing phone calls to both senators’ offices, urging them to champion key legislation, including a comprehensive highway bill, that will create jobs, invest in America, and leave a legacy for taxpayers and future generations.

“We can invest in our state and allow it to be an economic leader or we can delay doing what’s right, and let our roads, bridges, water systems and other basics decay in the process,” said Justin Ohlemiller, District Director for U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, D-Indianapolis.

“Roads, bridges, water systems and school facilities allow our cities and towns to thrive,” said Joanne Sanders, the Minority Leader of the Indianapolis and Marion County City-County Council. “We need to make sure our leaders in Washington invest in the people of our state.”

LIUNA’s effort in Indiana is part of a national Build America 2010 campaign, which has already launched in Colorado and Connecticut and will soon expand to Maryland, Kentucky, Ohio and other states. The campaign has drawn support from a broad range of groups.

“I’m ready to hire workers today, but I don’t have any projects to put them on,” said Ted Brunner of Milestone Contractors, one of the state’s largest highway builders. “Businesses like ours are ready to rebuild our state if our leaders step up to the challenge.”

“Putting off investing in our country has a huge environmental cost, including wasted drinking water and contaminated groundwater,” said Bowden Quinn, Conservation Program Coordinator for the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter. “The only way to stop this is for Congress to pass water resources legislation now.”

Build Indiana 2010 also received support from Build America’s Schools, a national coalition. “Building more modern schools will help Indiana students achieve successfully,” the group said in a statement. “More modern schools will produce construction jobs in Indiana communities across the state.”

“Instead of building tomorrow’s economy, far too many construction workers are languishing in today’s unemployment lines,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America. “It’s hard to understand how Washington can fail to act on long-overdue measures needed to keep our economy globally competitive, like the highway and transit bill, when one in five construction workers is unemployed.”

The problems facing Indiana’s critical infrastructure are many. In addition to deficient bridges:

- Between 1990 and 2008, vehicle travel on Indiana’s highways increased by 28 percent and the state’s population grew by 15 percent.
- In 2009, there were 3.3 billion gallons of sanitary sewer overflows reported to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Indiana’s drinking water systems need an investment of \$5.9 billion over the next 20 years.

“I’m ready to get to work today building my state,” said Lindsay Hosford, a LIUNA Local 120 member who has been without work for over a year. “We need our elected leaders to show some leadership and make working families a priority.”

Indiana's problems are part of a broader national crisis that is only getting worse. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the taxpayer tab for taking care of the basics of the country soared 69 percent between 2001 and today – from \$1.3 trillion to \$2.2 trillion.

For more information about Build Indiana 2010, visit www.BuildIndiana2010.com. For more information about Build America 2010, visit www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org.

###

The half-million members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America.