

# BuildAmerica

## **Our Cause: Restore America's Competitiveness, Create Jobs and Ensure a Positive Legacy for Future Generations**

*The United States became a global economic power due to the nation's vision, commitment, political will and the work of men and women who built world-class fundamental infrastructure – our bridges, highways, water resources, school facilities and energy systems. But we have fallen behind and it threatens our economy, our competitiveness and the daily lives of millions of jobless men and women.*

***While some sectors of our economy are in a slow recovery, Depression-era joblessness persists in the construction industry.***

- In the construction industry, 2 million jobs have been lost since the recession began and more than 1 million men and women are unemployed, far exceeding any other segment of the economy.
- Construction jobs tend to be good jobs which support families with paychecks that quickly spread throughout local communities.

***Even though millions are desperate for work and ready to help build America, our basic needs continue to deteriorate. Meanwhile the tab for taxpayers continues to balloon, increasing by 69 percent to \$2.2 trillion since 2001.***

- Across the U.S., 161,892 bridges – 27 percent of all bridges – are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. A third of major roads are in mediocre or poor condition and 36 percent of major urban highways are stretched beyond capacity.
- Each day, 7 billion gallons of clean drinking water is lost to leaking pipes.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 850 billion gallons of sewage overflows each year.
- Our electrical grid is outdated, costing at least \$25 billion in lost energy – while a vigorous commitment to nuclear power could free us from foreign oil.
- In the U.S., there are 1,743 high-hazard dams – those which threaten life and property – and since 2001 the number has increase nearly five-fold.
- Almost a third of public school students attend facilities that are over-crowded.

***Investment to build the basics of America could create millions of good jobs. President Obama has committed to signing good legislation if Congress does its job.***

- Positive legislation – such as President Obama's American Jobs Act – would create millions of jobs and invest fully in our roads, highways and bridges. But some Republicans in the U.S. House are instead pushing legislation that would slash investment and destroy jobs.