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## **Statement of Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA, On the Rescue of Trapped Chilean Miners**

**Washington, D.C. (October 15, 2010)** -- The heroic rescue of the trapped miners in Chile is an occasion for people around the world to proudly celebrate these men and the tireless work of those who helped them to safety. As a union that represents tunnel workers and thousands of others who lay their lives on the line every day, we are overjoyed to see these miners persevere in the face of potential tragedy and be reunited with their loved ones.

This incident should be a reminder to people everywhere – including our political leaders here in America – that millions of men and women face similar risks on the job site day after day. Only a few months ago, we saw 29 miners killed in West Virginia at the Upper Big Branch Mine, owned by a company with a long history of safety violations. Just this week, two miners were killed in accidents in Oklahoma and West Virginia. In all, 60 workers have died in U.S. mines this year.

Men and women should be able to go to work without worrying that their life and safety is at risk. Yet, clearly, more needs to be done. We hope our leaders will use this occasion to take up this cause and improve the health and safety of the men and women who build this country.

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*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.*