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Jobs Report Offers No Hope to Nation's Construction Workers

Washington, D.C. (Oct. 8, 2010) – The latest jobs report from the U.S. Department of Labor once again showed the construction industry mired in Depression-like conditions. Another 21,000 construction jobs were lost in September. Overall, the construction unemployment rate edged up to 17.2 percent – nearly 1.5 million men and women are looking for work.

Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA, made the following statement:

As nearly 1.5 million men and women look for work in the construction industry, America continues to let its transportation systems, water resources, school facilities and energy systems fall behind those in the rest of the world. Time is running out – we need to invest in our country, and we need to create jobs as soon as possible.

We were encouraged last month when President Obama announced a plan to invest \$50 billion in our roads, rails and runways while also supporting a six-year Surface Transportation Bill that would be the biggest jobs creator in our history. Regardless of who wins this year's elections, Congress needs to dedicate itself to building America and putting people back to work.

We can't afford to let our nation's basics deteriorate further, and we can't continue to let so many people go without work when there's so much important work to be done. It's a no brainer – let's build our country, create jobs, keep America competitive in the 21st century and leave behind real assets for future generations.

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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.