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Construction Jobs Decline For Second Consecutive Month

“Congress needs to act on jobs-creating legislation that would put men and women to work and provide desperately needed investment in our transportation systems, water resources, school facilities and other basics of America.”

July 2, 2010 (Washington, D.C.) – The jobs picture for construction workers grew worse in June, according to data released today by the U.S. Labor Department. The number of construction jobs fell by 22,000, marking the second straight month of decline. Construction unemployment stayed near Depression-era levels at 20.1 percent. Nearly 1.8 million construction workers are still looking for work.

Terry O’Sullivan, General President of LIUNA, made the following statement today regarding the jobs report:

The loss of over 50,000 construction jobs in the past two months is tragic, not only because it threatens the livelihoods of thousands of working families, but also because it’s a problem we can easily fix – by building our country.

The 1.8 million construction workers looking for a job are ready to report to work to rebuild our roads, fix our bridges, repair our water systems and renovate our aging school facilities – things America has put off for too long at too great a cost.

We face a choice today. Either we can continue down the path to a Third World infrastructure, or we can invest in our workers, in our country and in our future. The right choice is obvious – but we can’t get there unless Congress shows some initiative by passing legislation that will allow America to compete in the 21st century while leaving a legacy 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.