



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3605

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

As you seek recommendations on policy priorities for a surface transportation reauthorization bill, we write to express our strong opposition to Project Labor Agreement (PLA) mandates and enthusiastic support for a fair and open competitive bidding process. Government-mandated PLAs pose a serious threat to our nation's workers and small construction businesses that are recovering from economic upheaval due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, 87.3% of the U.S. construction workforce does not belong to a union. Mandating PLAs would prevent qualified contractors from fairly competing for contracts on taxpayer-funded projects. These mandates also deny critical construction jobs to local workers and small businesses. The Fair and Open Competition Act (FOCA, H.R. 1284) would guarantee the best value for hardworking taxpayers through a fair and open bidding process for federal construction projects. Notably, FOCA prevents federal mandates for PLAs, but also ensures federal agencies can still award contracts to businesses that voluntarily enter into a PLA.

Over 25 states have enacted measures that ensure accountability, oversight, and a fact-based decision making process that will lead to better investment in local infrastructure and the creation of more construction industry jobs, a vital part of economic recovery. These state laws curb waste and favoritism in the procurement of construction projects and ensure responsible management of taxpayer dollars. Further, they allow markets to determine the appropriateness of a PLA – not the federal government.

At a time when the global pandemic has upended our workforce, disrupted our businesses, and created economic turmoil, Congress should be designing policies that support job growth for all industries rather than instituting arbitrary discriminatory barriers to recovery. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our request to protect all American workers.

Sincerely,

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Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



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Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress



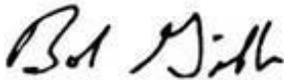
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James Comer  
Member of Congress



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Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress



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Bod Gibbs  
Member of Congress



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Bob Good  
Member of Congress



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Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



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Ashely Hinson  
Member of Congress



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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



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Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



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Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



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Matthew Rosendale  
Member of Congress



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John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



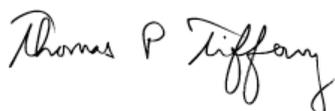
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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



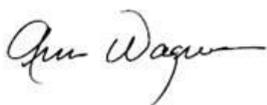
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Thomas P. Tiffany  
Member of Congress



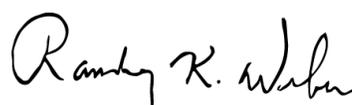
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William Timmons  
Member of Congress



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Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



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Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress