

NATIONAL HEAVY & HIGHWAY ALLIANCE

PARTNERSHIP
AT
WORK

905 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 • Phone 202-347-1660 • Fax 202-347-1661

February 8, 2006

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr., Chairman
House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4202

Dear Chairman Duncan:

On behalf of the building trades unions which comprise the Heavy & Highway Alliance, we commend you for your leadership in introducing HR 4560, the Clean Water Trust Fund Act of 2005. This important legislation, which would authorize \$36 billion in badly needed clean water infrastructure, would address our country's deteriorating water infrastructure through a combination of grants and a dedicated revenue stream into a clean water trust fund. Such a federally assisted financing mechanism has proven its value over the years in helping finance this country's highway and airport needs.

As the leading building trade unions advocating for a robust federal role in investing in America's vast infrastructure needs, we recognize the huge job-creation potential in your proposed legislation. Similar to the recently passed federal highway legislation, these are good-paying, American jobs which will be created. However, a critical policy component underlying any federally assisted construction program, especially in respect to the compensation of construction workers employed on such programs, is the scope and application of Davis-Bacon prevailing wages. For almost 75 years, Davis-Bacon has protected America's construction workers, union and non-union, from unscrupulous contractors who often compete by paying less than the wages, retirement, medical and training benefits prevailing in particular communities.

Our full support for HR 4560 is conditioned on the comprehensive application of federal Davis-Bacon to this federally-assisted construction program. Unfortunately, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has not been permitted to work its will and report various clean water bills to the House floor over the past ten years because of opposition from certain elements of the House Republican Leadership. That opposition has been based specifically on Davis-Bacon, even though it is widely recognized that a broad, bi-partisan majority of the House supports the comprehensive application of prevailing wages to federal infrastructure programs. We are prepared to continue to work with both the Committee and House Leadership in addressing the Davis-Bacon issue in an effort to pass HR 4560.

Again, we commend you for your leadership in recognizing America's serious clean water needs by introducing HR 4560.

Sincerely,


Raymond J. Poupore
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Honorable Don Young
Honorable Jim Oberstar

Competing Through Cooperation Since 1954!

www.heavyhighway.org



Laborers' International Union
of North America



International Union
of Operating Engineers



United Brotherhood
of Carpenters & Joiners
of America



International Association
of Bridge, Structural,
Ornamental and Reinforcing
Iron Workers



Operative Plasterers'
and Cement Masons'
International Association



International
Brotherhood
of Teamsters



International Union of
Bricklayers and Allied
Craftworkers