

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

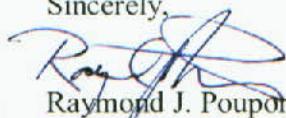
The National Construction Alliance II strongly supports H.R. 4213, the Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. The National Construction Alliance II – a partnership between two of the nation's leading construction unions, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) – appreciates your leadership on this essential legislation.

First and foremost, H.R. 4213 contains pension relief language which will help both single and multi-employer pension plans responsibly address the unprecedented market losses of 2008 and 2009. This relief will save IUOE, UBC and many other plans potentially tens of millions of dollars in retiree benefit cuts or higher contributions from cash strapped employers. Such targeted relief will occur without a government bailout. Rather, our plans will receive more time to amortize these historic losses and address their funding status in an actuarially sound manner.

The legislation contains a number of other key provisions for hard-working members of the IUOE and UBC. The extension of Unemployment Insurance and COBRA subsidy benefits through the end of the year are critical. Far too many members of the Carpenters and Operating Engineers are out-of-work, relying on unemployment benefits as their primary source of income. With the construction industry unemployment *dropping* to 24.9% in April, the employment situation is dire. That is part of the reason the infrastructure investment components of the legislation are also indispensable. At a precarious time in the nation's financial markets, the Build America Bonds program, in particular, has played a vital role in financing public infrastructure, incentivizing billions of dollars of construction activity by states and local governments. Simply put, this bonding program has created thousands of jobs for carpenters, heavy-equipment operators and other construction workers.

NCA II appreciates the Democratic Leadership's, and Chairman Levin's, efforts in bringing this much-needed legislation to the House floor. We urge all Representatives to support H.R. 4213.

Sincerely,



Raymond J. Poupore
Executive Vice President

cc: The Honorable Sander Levin, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee



UNITED BROTHERHOOD
of CARPENTERS & JOINERS
of AMERICA

Douglas J. McCarron
General President



INTERNATIONAL UNION
of OPERATING ENGINEERS

Vincent J. Giblin
General President