



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,

Ted Budd
Member of Congress

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



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
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Bod Gibbs
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Bob Good
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
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Jody Hice
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Ashely Hinson
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Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Matthew Rosendale
Member of Congress



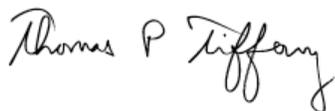
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



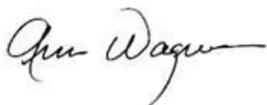
W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



William Timmons
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress