

TO: NABTU Legislative Conference Attendees
FROM: UA Department of Legislative and Political Affairs
DATE: April 6, 2022
SUBJ: NABTU Legislative Conference 2022: UA Legislative Overview

Since President Biden's inauguration, and with new Democratic majorities in both chambers, the UA Department of Legislative and Political Affairs has worked on a record number of bills and pieces of legislation – bills that impact the everyday lives and livelihoods of all United Association members. These bills included the historic expansions of labor protections such as prevailing wage, project labor agreements, and registered apprenticeship utilization requirements; the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, the largest investment in American infrastructure in generations; a much-needed rescue for multiemployer pension plans in the American Rescue Plan; House passage of the Build Back Better plan, projects; and much more, described in this memo.

Since the beginning of 2021, the UA Department of Legislative and Political Affairs actively worked with Congress on the following legislation:

U.S. House of Representatives

H.R. 3684 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
H.R. 5376 Build Back Better Act
H.R. 7575 Water Resources Development Act of 2020
H.R. 2314 Nuclear Powers America Act of 2019
H.R. 2741 Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America Act
H.R. 4447 Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act
H.R. 133 Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021
H.R. 848 GREEN Act
H.R. 1062 ACCESS 45Q Act
H.R. 156 Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2021
H.R. 869 RISE Act of 2021
H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
H.R. 842 Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021
H.R. 447 Natural Apprenticeship Act of 2021
H.R. 1512 CLEAN Future Act
H.R. 4024 Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production Credit Act of 2021
H.R. 7178 CHIPS for America Act
H.R. 2641 Pacific Northwest Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act of 2021
H.R. 3585 REGROW Act of 2021
H.R. 4099 Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act
H.R. 4909 Clean Hydrogen Energy Act
H.R. 1915 Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021
H.R. 2008 Local Water Protection Act
H.R. 2173 Wastewater Workforce Investment Act
H.R. 3218 Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2021
H.R. 3267 Protect Drinking Water from PFAS Act of 2021

H.R. 3691 Wastewater Infrastructure Modernization Act
H.R. 4224 PFAS Transparency Act
H.R. 4805 Safe School Drinking Water Act
H.R. 2664 Green New Deal for Public Housing Act
H.R. 2634 LIFT Act
H.R. 6000 Cures 2.0 Act

United States Senate

S. 3591 America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020
S. 1134 Nuclear Powers America Act of 2019
S. 2657 Advanced Geothermal Innovation Leadership Act
S. 2299 PIPES Act
S. 289 RISE Act
S. 914 Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021
S. 283 National Climate Bank Act
S. 645 Methane Emissions Reduction Act of 2021
S. 2377 Energy Infrastructure Act
S. 2324 Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act
S. 779 Scale Act
S. 661 Carbon Capture Modernization Act
S. 622 American Jobs in Energy Manufacturing Act of 2021
S. 1260 United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021
S. 3121 Promoting American Energy Jobs Act of 2021
S. 2291 Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production Credit Act of 2021
S. 2883 School Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2021
S. 1076 REGROW Act of 2021
S. 1094 Made in America Act of 2021
S. 1218 Green New Deal for Public Housing Act
S. 2272 Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act of 2021
S. 2966 American Energy Worker Opportunity Act of 2021
S. 2291 Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production Credit Act of 2021
S. 1017 Clean Hydrogen Production Incentives Act of 2021

The Department of Legislative and Political Affairs continues to grow support for UA issues with members of both parties to maintain our influence regardless of which party is in power. Thanks to these efforts, the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs has been instrumental in growing Republican support for strong labor protections, like Davis-Bacon and Project Labor Agreements, and in growing Democratic support for pro-UA policies, like an all-of-the-above energy approach. This consistent outreach and education to both parties ensure more bipartisan wins for UA members in the future no matter who is in office.

In addition to the legislation listed above, the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs flexed its muscle and played a critical role in gaining both Democratic and Republican support for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This bill included **\$1.3 trillion in spending – with more than \$153 billion directed towards work for UA members**, much of it with Davis-Bacon

provisions attached. This funding will also be used to leverage public and/or private investment that will lead to even more funding for UA jobs.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes funding for UA projects, including:

- \$19.7 billion for water infrastructure including funding for State Revolving Funds and WIFIA grants all with labor protections like Davis-Bacon attached.
- \$50 billion for water resiliency.
- \$1.15 billion for water storage, groundwater storage, and conveyance projects.
- \$15 billion for lead line replacement.
- \$10 billion to address PFAS and emerging contaminants.
- \$60 billion for new and emerging energy sources.
- \$9.5 billion for carbon capture sequestration.
- \$3.5 billion for energy efficiency including heating and HVAC.
- \$8 billion for four clean hydrogen hubs to demonstrate the production, processing, delivery, storage, and end-use of clean hydrogen.
- \$500 million for clean hydrogen manufacturing and recycling.
- \$150 million for a Long-Duration Demonstration Initiative and Joint Program for energy storage.
- \$10 million for a pumped storage demonstration project to facilitate long-duration storage of intermittent renewable energy (hydropower).
- \$84 million for testing geothermal projects.
- \$11 billion for small modular reactors and existing nuclear plants.
- \$1 billion for gas distribution infrastructure projects.
- \$4.7 billion for repair of existing natural gas pipelines.

The Department of Legislative and Political Affairs works with our allies on Capitol Hill to advance our core priorities and help ensure UA members can win more work with fair wages and benefits.

These priorities and legislative actions included continuous outreach on the following issues:

- The American Rescue Plan, which included \$86 billion in pension relief, effectively saving the multiemployer pension system; COVID-19 worker relief, including childcare, unemployment insurance, small business reliefs, \$1400 stimulus checks, protective equipment, and funding to reopen schools.
- Executive Order on Project Labor Agreements, signed by President Biden, goes a step further than the Obama-era Executive Order. Requires the use of PLAs on major federal construction projects.
- CHIPS Act funding for semiconductors includes \$52 billion for construction of chip plants with Davis-Bacon provisions attached to these projects for the first time.
- Successfully killed an anti-Davis-Bacon amendment from Rep. Scott Perry (Republican-PA) to the CHIPS Act that would have stripped these protections.

- New Davis-Bacon rulemaking from the Department of Labor that will increase enforcement and accountability as well as clarify classifications to benefit labor unions.
- UA members appointed to Administration Transition Teams, including Dave Barnett at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) at the Department of Transportation, and Mike Hazard at Department of Labor.
- Appointment of Ray Boyd to National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships.
- Appointment of Chad Gilbert to the PHMSA Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee.
- Task Force on Worker Rights and Empowerment, co-chaired by Vice President Harris and Secretary Walsh.
- Application of Davis-Bacon requirements on all federal projects and assisting local unions on various Davis-Bacon applications concerning federal construction projects.
- Direct cash infusion to save the multiemployer pension system.
- Lead line replacement funding and labor standards, to successfully implement the President's plans to replace 100% of the nation's lead lines.
- Providing expertise and assistance for the Biden Administration's commitment to removing the nation's lead lines.
- President Biden tour and meeting with apprentices at UA Local 5 in Maryland.
- Numerous visits by Vice President Harris and White House Cabinet Secretaries at UA training centers throughout the country.
- Repeal of the independent contractor/worker misclassification rule at DOL.
- Working to repeal Trump-era tax policies that prevent union members from writing off their dues.
- Promoting registered apprenticeship training, programs, and utilization of apprentices.
- Fighting against Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) and succeeding in revoking this anti-worker rule.
- Actively working to secure waivers for Canadian members and cross-border projects.
- Saving the existing nuclear plant fleet and expanding nuclear energy, loan guarantees, and tax credits for existing and new nuclear plants, including SMRs.

- Natural gas infrastructure and natural gas export plants, and the recognition that natural gas is a critical component in an all-of-the-above energy policy.
- Funding for hydrogen energy and carbon capture technology, including the funding of pilot projects.
- Green energy incubators at DOE, to ensure labor standards are attached to the development and implementation of new energy technologies.
- Appointment and confirmation of Radhika Fox as EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Water. Working closely with her office and staff to ensure robust labor protections on water infrastructure projects.
- Funding for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and Clean and Safe State Revolving Funds (SRF) programs with Davis-Bacon attached.
- Drinking water safety, public water systems, water quality certificate programs, and lead pipe replacement.
- Biden Administration support for the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act.
- Modernization of federal permitting processes. Working to remove red tape and expedite the permitting process to add reliable timelines and certainty to energy projects.
- Working with the Biden Administration and various agencies to address licensing and certification issues in the plumbing industry.
- Working with the Biden Administration to approve oil and gas drilling permits on public lands.
- Working with the U.S. Trade Representative to combat foreign fabrication and price dumping.
- Funding for building of schools, hospitals, large-scale housing, and airports.
- Energy efficiency and modernizing heating and HVAC systems.
- Fire sprinkler system installations including tax incentives.
- PennEast, Spire, Line 5, and Line 3 pipeline projects. Secured commitments from the Biden Administration to approach each pipeline decision on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, like these, the Administration backed our position in federal and state court.

- Had input in selection of PHMSA Administrator, working closely to develop and implement fairer pipeline regulations that will help our members win more work.
- Funding to replace and modernize existing pipelines.
- FERC Commissioner candidates.
- NLRB nominations.
- OSHA safety standard for COVID-19 essential employees, like UA Members.
- Working with FEMA to ensure updated IAPMO codes are accepted.
- Fighting H-2B Visa abuse.
- Polymet mine in Minnesota. Working with Administration to ensure this project creates good union jobs for our members and receives the necessary permits and approvals.
- Implementation of Renewable Fuel Standards. Working with Administration to secure reforms for RINs pricing to help smaller union refiners and our members working on those projects.
- Building standards and codes applicable to FEMA projects.

Should you have any questions about any of these bills or initiatives, please contact our Department.