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Building and Construction Trades Department

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June 24, 2009

Members of Congress
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 13 national and international unions that comprise the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and who collectively represent 2.5 million skilled craft professionals, I write to express our support for H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES). We believe this balanced legislation takes an important step toward addressing climate change while encouraging job-creating investments in clean energy and efficiency.

After many years of speculative, boom and bust “bubble” economics, the United States Congress is now being presented an opportunity to create solid, sustainable economic growth by investing in the infrastructures of the future, and re-building our human capital. In the case of ACES, we have the opportunity to begin building a domestic clean energy infrastructure. In fact, the development and deployment of an expanding domestic clean energy infrastructure remains one of the best opportunities our nation has to create high road careers for Americans in all regions and from all walks of life.

Our unions realize that the important work of building a clean energy economy will require the skilled workers of our unions, as well as our world-class apprenticeship and training programs. However, that work cannot begin without a clear framework and appropriate incentives.

H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, is a responsible, reasonable proposal that addresses climate change while investing in new technology to ensure that affordable and plentiful supplies of energy and power are available to American consumers and businesses. Passage of this legislation would provide much needed certainty for many energy-intensive industries, and will provide the basis for investments in emerging renewable and energy efficiency industries. The net result, in each instance, will be substantial job creation all across America.

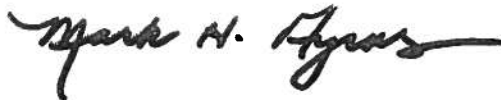
Specifically, the cap and trade system and corresponding allowance allocation proposed in ACES will accommodate our nation's diverse energy needs. The legislation also incentivizes job creating investment in new energy sources, including advanced coal with carbon capture and storage technology, nuclear, and renewable energy. In addition, the bill includes important safeguards to ensure the competitiveness of energy intensive industries and protect American jobs. Finally, we applaud Chairman Waxman and the Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for their commitment to essential wage standards that will ensure clean energy jobs are good jobs.

Again, we urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation when it reaches the floor of the House of Representatives. America's Building Trades Unions appreciate the magnitude of the implications of this issue and we look forward to continuing to work with both bodies of Congress to further address this critically important issue.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark H. Ayers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mark H. Ayers
President