



Founded 1889

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

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TO: All Local Union Business Managers in the U.S.
CC: All General Officers, International Representatives and Special Representatives in the U.S.
FROM: General President Mark McManus
DATE: November 10, 2021
SUBJ: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal and the UA

After the United States House of Representatives passed an historic piece of infrastructure legislation last Friday, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the bill is now headed to the President's desk for his signature. This legislation contains strong labor protections throughout that will ensure UA members can win more work with fair wages and benefits as we rebuild our aging infrastructure.

Below are some of the main components of the legislation that will impact United Association members. I can confidently say that this is the single most important piece of job-creating legislation in my lifetime – and the direct result of years of hard work and engagement from the United Association with our elected officials.

Drinking Water Infrastructure

State Revolving Funds:

- Authorizes \$14.7 billion from fiscal 2022 through 2026 for the Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, which provides capitalization grants to states for loans supporting water infrastructure projects.
- Requires at least 12% of such funding to be used to subsidize loans to disadvantaged communities, increased from 6% under current law, if there are enough applications for loans to those communities.

Lead Reduction:

- Extends an EPA grant program to support replacement of lead water lines by five years through fiscal 2026 and increases annual authorization to \$100 million from \$60 million.
- Authorizes \$200 million over five years to address lead contamination in school drinking water, including through testing and remediation.

Small and Disadvantaged Communities:

- Extends the authorization for compliance assistance grants to public water systems in small and disadvantaged communities through fiscal 2026.
- Authorizes \$50 million annually through fiscal 2026 for a pilot program to award competitive grants to states to implement improvements to water systems, with priority for states with a high proportion of underserved communities.

Leak Detection and Repair:

- Authorizes \$50 million annually through 2026 for grants for leak detection, repair, and monitoring in small public and nonprofit water systems.
- An additional \$50 million per year would be authorized for larger systems for infrastructure resilience and sustainability.





Clean Water Infrastructure

WIFIA:

- Extends the annual \$50 million authorization for the WIFIA loan program through fiscal 2026, leveraging \$5 billion annually to finance Water and Wastewater projects.

Research Grants:

- Authorizes \$75 million per year through fiscal 2026 for research grants to address water pollution and training at water treatment works. At least \$50 million per year would be for grants to nonprofits supporting small, rural, and tribal water treatment operations.

Appropriations:

- Provides \$55.4 billion in supplemental emergency appropriations for EPA state and tribal assistance grants, including for capitalization grants through the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Amounts set aside for specified activities for fiscal 2022 through 2026 would among other things include:
 - \$15 billion to replace lead service lines.
 - \$5 billion to support disadvantaged communities affected by emerging contaminants.
 - \$4 billion to address emerging contaminants.
 - Provides \$3.4 billion for Indian Health Services Water Sanitation construction.
 - Provides \$2 billion for EPA Regional Clean Water programs.
 - Provides \$1.4 billion for stormwater control projects.
- Provides \$8.3 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation's water and related resources activities, with \$3.2 billion set aside for maintenance of bureau-owned water infrastructure.

PHMSA Modernization

- Provides for \$1 billion in new funding to investigate leaks and replace aging pipelines.

Carbon Capture

- Authorizes \$3.5 billion over five years for Energy Department financial support for projects that help develop four regional hubs to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and transport, store, and use it.
- Creates a "carbon dioxide transportation infrastructure finance and innovation" or CIFIA program to leverage federal funding to make loan guarantees and secure loans supporting large projects for infrastructure to transport carbon dioxide. Authorizes \$600 million per year in fiscal 2022 and 2023 and \$300 million each year afterward through fiscal 2026.
- Directs the Interior Department to adopt rules to allow for leases of offshore areas to be used to inject captured carbon dioxide below the seafloor for long-term sequestration.
- Authorizes \$2.54 billion over four years for demonstration projects related to carbon capture at coal and natural gas-fired operations, and an additional \$937 million over four years for large-scale carbon capture pilot projects.
- Provides \$2.1 billion to finance and fund CO₂ transport networks, and an additional \$2.5 billion for commercial-scale geologic storage.



Hydrogen

- Authorizes \$8 billion over five years to support hydrogen fuel production from different sources, use of hydrogen for electricity and industrial processes, and hydrogen fuel transportation. The Energy Department would establish at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs that locate clean hydrogen producers, users, and transport infrastructure near one another.
- Authorizes \$1 billion over five years for a research, demonstration, and commercialization program aimed at reducing the cost of hydrogen produced from electrolysis to less than \$2 per kilogram of hydrogen by 2026.
- Directs \$500 million to address supply chain issues related to hydrogen development.

Nuclear Energy Infrastructure

Nuclear Credit Program:

- Authorizes \$6 billion from fiscal 2022 through 2026 for an Energy Department civil nuclear credit program to support reactors projected to cease operations because of economic factors. Credits would be provided for a commitment to generate a specific amount of power over a four-year period.
- Authorizes \$3.21 billion over six years for advanced nuclear reactor demonstrations.
- Provides \$2.5 billion for small modular reactors.

Other Energy Funding

- Provides \$30 billion in clean energy research and development, and an additional \$30 billion for innovation.
- Provides \$4.7 billion to address methane leaks and environmental remediation.
- Authorizes \$3.5 billion in funding to improve building efficiency.

Other items

Keystone XL Pipeline:

- Requires the Secretary of Energy to complete a study and report on the impacts on consumer energy costs due to the revocation of the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Orphaned well site plugging:

- Authorizes programs to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned wells on Federal, State, and Tribal Lands.

Permitting:

- Includes S. 2324, the Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act, to address permitting delays on infrastructure projects. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) helps reduce delays in the permitting process, but is set to expire in 2022. This bill will extend FAST-41 to help permanently eliminate unnecessary red tape, expedite reviews, and create certainty in the permitting process.