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Senator Obama: “I Will Be The Build America President”

In Address to LIUNA Members Senator Obama Vows to Build America and Talks about What Change in Washington Means for Working Families

San Francisco, CA (August 21, 2008) – Yesterday in a live satellite address to about 1,000 LIUNA members, Senator Barack Obama declared himself the “Build America President” and promised to invest needed resources to rebuild America’s basics that working people depend on every day, such as our roadways, bridges, waterways, schoolhouses and energy systems.

To watch Senator Obama’s address to LIUNA members go to: www.buildamerica2008.org

“I will be the Build America President and put Americans back to work with a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank that will invest \$60 billion over ten years and generate millions of new jobs that cannot be outsourced,” said Senator Obama on Wednesday.

Senator Obama also told the Laborers’ Union that his message of change in Washington means economic stimulus, job creation, universal healthcare, an economy that rewards work not just wealth, and retirement security for working families who have struggled during the past eight years under the Bush administration and would continue to struggle under a John McCain administration.

Senator McCain, who has voted with President Bush more than 90% of the time, recently stated that America made “great progress economically” over the past eight years.

Senator Obama countered, “I don’t think that the 463,000 Americans who have lost their jobs this year are seeing the great progress that John McCain has seen. I don’t think the millions of Americans losing their homes have seen that progress. I don’t think the workers without pensions have seen that progress. And if we continue down the same reckless path, I don’t think that future generations who will be saddled with debt will see these as years of progress.”

“Senator McCain does not understand the economy and he has admitted to that,” said LIUNA General President, Terence M. O’Sullivan. “Faced with the reality of an economy spiraling into recession and massive job loss across America, including nearly half a million since the start of 2007 in the construction industry alone, it’s impossible for working families to take Senator McCain seriously when he talks about economic progress and promises to continue the same failed policies of George Bush.”

“Much has been said about Senator Obama’s need to connect with working class voters,” O’Sullivan said. “But by supporting laws that protect wages and make it easier for working people to have their voices heard and by fighting for fairness at the workplace his whole life, Senator Obama has proved himself to be a true champion of working Americans.”

Senator Obama was presented with a new “LIUNA for Obama” orange t-shirt and thanked LIUNA members for their commitment to help elect him in November, acknowledging that many efforts are

already underway. LIUNA members have so far contacted over 50,000 fellow members this summer in *Make a Call to Build America*, LIUNA's member-to-member voter registration and volunteer recruitment phonebank. In a major showing of enthusiasm to elect Senator Obama, during a single night more than 4,000 LIUNA members signed-up to participate in various election activities throughout the campaign.

"That is exactly the kind of grass roots movement this campaign has been about from the very beginning, because that is precisely how change happens," said Senator Obama.

"Our members clearly want a President who understands the importance of building America," said O'Sullivan.

LIUNA is sponsoring the Democratic National Convention to help elect build America candidate Senator Obama and a build America Congress, and to help make build America issues a national priority. During the convention LIUNA will promote its *Build America, so America Works* effort with hotel keycards, information booths, convention banners, bus wraps, billboards, street banners, print ads and TV ads. LIUNA will also be a key participant in convention sponsored activities, including a symposium on rebuilding America.

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The members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of 10 million workers who are proud to build America.

LIUNA's Build America so America Works campaign is an intensive and sustained effort to redirect our nation's priorities and resources to taking care of America's basics – our roadways, bridges, dams, railways, schoolhouses, energy systems and other fundamentals America depends on every day. To learn more please go to: www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org.