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Election Opens the Door for the Opportunity to Build America

LIUNA Promoting Agenda to Put People Back to Work and Build a Better Country

Washington, D.C. (November 5, 2008) – LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – greeted last night’s Presidential and Congressional elections with applause, saying the results open the door to taking care of America and its Main Streets for a change.

“Barack Obama’s landslide victory – achieved by the relentless effort of millions of working people, including hundreds of thousands of LIUNA members – changed America’s political landscape and will open the gates to a new progressive era in our country,” said LIUNA General President Terence O’Sullivan. “If ever there was a leader who can unite our country behind a progressive agenda and who understands the struggles working people face, it is Barack Obama.”

LIUNA mobilized its half-million members during the 2008 election like never before. The union helped thousands of members register to vote, recruited more than 20,000 volunteers for President-Elect Obama, distributed a half-million flyers on job sites, sent over two million robo-call messages, one million emails, thousands of text messages and delivered six separate mail pieces. *Make a Call to Build America* – LIUNA’s massive, nationwide phone-banking program – resulted in over 110,000 member-to-member conversations about registering to vote, electing Barack Obama, getting involved in the campaign and getting out to vote.

Overall, LIUNA’s \$15 million 2008 election budget more than doubled the \$6 million the union allocated in 2004 and is five times greater than the \$3 million allocated in 2000.

“This was an election of a lifetime for our members and for working people across America,” said O’Sullivan. “President-Elect Obama, Vice President-Elect Biden and a new Congress are coming to Washington with a mandate to fight for working people and make their lives better by creating good jobs, passing affordable healthcare for all, securing retirement and eliminating the barriers that make it difficult for employees to join together in a union.”

Topping the list of issues that impact the lives of LIUNA members is the need to create jobs by building America – the transportation, education and energy systems that we all rely on every day and which have fallen into disrepair due to years of neglect.

In an August speech to LIUNA members Barack Obama announced he would be the “build America President” and promised to invest needed resources to rebuild our country if elected. Having helped to elect their “build America President,” LIUNA members stand ready to get to work building the things America desperately needs.

LIUNA's ad "Build" ran throughout election night coverage on CNN and MSNBC in Washington, D.C., and Chicago urging viewers to tell "Congress and our new President, it's time to build America so America works."

To start, LIUNA is calling for an immediate economic stimulus package that includes \$100 billion for needed projects to put people back to work building America. According to Department of Transportation estimates, a \$100 billion infusion of funds for crucial ready-to-go projects across the country would create more than 1 million jobs.

"America's workers need paychecks, not stimulus checks," O'Sullivan said. "Jobs building America are too good to keep losing."

In the long term, LIUNA is looking for a nationwide commitment to build America noting the American Society of Civil Engineers gives our basics a near failing grade and estimates \$1.6 trillion is needed over the next five years.

"We need a new approach that takes care of America for a change," said O'Sullivan. "Building America is a prudent investment that creates jobs, keeps us safe and moving, our economy growing and commerce running."

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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 workers who are proud to build America. For more information on Build America so America Works, visit www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org.