

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jacob Hay, LIUNA at (202) 942-2285, (202) 445-4788 or [jhay@liuna.org](mailto:jhay@liuna.org)

## **Statement of Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA, On Today's Massive Job Loss and the Urgent Need to Put People Back to Work Building America**

*Unemployment reaches 15.3% in key sector of the economy*

**Washington, D.C. (January 9, 2009)** – Today's jobs report, showing construction unemployment at 15.3%, is conclusive evidence that it is time to put people back to work building America.

The report released today by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that more than 1.4 million construction workers are out of work. In the last month, 101,000 construction jobs – a key driver of our economy – were lost, marking the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with significant job loss in the construction industry. In all, 893,000 construction jobs have been lost since the start of 2007.

Americans need work and America has a lot of work to do – all that's missing are the jobs.

With a backlog of thousands of important projects to build needed roads, bridges, waterways and schools and opportunities to create new green jobs by retrofitting buildings and investing in renewable energies, we can to put millions of people back to work quickly building America.

Yesterday, President-elect Obama presented a bold plan to do just that. Now it's time for Congress to move to create jobs with the same urgency as they did on the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout.

President-elect Obama's plan to put millions of people back to work building America is exactly the leadership we hoped for when he promised earlier this year that he would be the "build America President" and the half-million members of LIUNA stand ready to make sure his job creation plans succeeds. It's time to build America, so America works.

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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 build America.*

*To learn more about LIUNA's Build America, so America Works - a long-term effort to make taking care of America's basics a national priority - go to [www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org](http://www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org).*