

Infrastructure and Climate Labor Standards

International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers



Congress should ensure any Infrastructure and Climate legislation is a source of quality middle class jobs by **strengthening** construction labor standards and **expanding** them to clean energy programs such as the ITC and PTC.

Issue Overview

- The Production Tax Credit (PTC) and Investment Tax Credit (ITC) do not have the same labor standards such as Davis Bacon that apply to most federally supported construction. As a result, taxpayers have subsidized a growing low-wage industry and missed an opportunity to create middle-class jobs.
- The Iron Workers and other Building Trades unions have invested in our registered apprenticeships and have a trained wind and solar erection workforce. Unemployment is high in construction and we can put people to work building infrastructure and renewable projects.
- The coming Infrastructure and Climate bill should support construction companies that invest in registered apprenticeships and middle-class jobs.

We recommend the following standards be applied to Infrastructure and Climate investments, including existing incentives such as the ITC and PTC:

- Davis Bacon – Prevailing wage is a proven tool to make sure government-assisted construction does not undercut local workers.
- Apprenticeship Utilization – In a rapidly growing industry, we need to support companies that invest in their workforce. Federal support should come with the condition that a portion of the workers on a project be enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program.
- ABC Test – Misclassification of independent contractors is rife in the regions where wind and solar is growing fastest. Companies benefiting from incentives should be required to apply the ABC test to distinguish employees and independent contractors.
- Local Hire – Support for infrastructure and clean energy construction should contain language encouraging local hire agreements and should preempt agency and state policies banning them.
- Neutrality Agreements – Federally-supported construction sites should be free of employer intimidation of workers exercising their collective bargaining rights.