



February 22, 2022

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of the 775,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the more than three million members and supporters of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), we write to urge swift passage of the Build Back Better Act.

Build Back Better would create scores of high-quality union jobs across the country while making much-needed investments in clean energy, grid modernization, transportation electrification, and other vital solutions to the climate crisis. Given the urgent need to cut emissions while driving a durable, equitable and just recovery, these investments can no longer wait.

As we enter 2022, businesses are already making capital and personnel investment decisions for the year ahead, while workers and communities continue to struggle with uncertain economic conditions, and the climate crisis continues to accelerate. The Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act was an important start, but it is not enough.

We need the Build Back Better Act to catalyze new public and private investments that rebuild our country's infrastructure while prioritizing the well-being of workers, families, and communities.

Both IBEW and NRDC strongly support several key provisions of the Build Back Better Act that meet our shared jobs, climate, and equity goals, including:

- 10-year extensions of clean energy, energy efficiency, and EV charging tax incentives with needed updates, prevailing wage and domestic content requirements, direct pay or refundability, and bonuses for investments made in disadvantaged communities.
- Funding for grant and loan programs supporting modernizing critical facilities, adaptation of updated zero-emission building codes, and facilitating siting of interstate transmission lines that help deploy additional clean energy.
- Funding for grant programs supporting installation of zero-emissions vehicle charging infrastructure in disadvantaged communities, replacement of heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission vehicles, converting domestic manufacturing to clean energy and transportation components, developing high-speed rail corridors, and installing zero-emission equipment at ports.
- Funding for programs designed to spur reinvestment in environmental justice and energy communities.

In addition, both NRDC and IBEW support adding provisions to ensure that this investment is safe and reliable by requiring the use of highly-skilled Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) credentialed electricians on electric vehicle infrastructure projects.

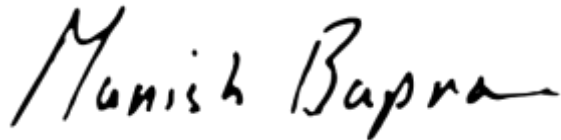
We believe that coupling labor standards with increasingly critical clean energy investments will lead to creation and retention of high-quality American jobs that offer workers a free and fair choice to join a union. When workers from underrepresented populations earn a fair wage in stable jobs, they help revitalize communities that for too long have struggled from underinvestment, discrimination, and exploitation. Seeking to address these inequities, IBEW is significantly expanding programs that recruit students, military veterans, and individuals in underserved populations, helping them qualify for apprenticeships and family-sustaining careers.

While each of our organizations has other priorities beyond those mentioned in this letter, we have come together to share these priorities. We stress the urgent need for Members of Congress to do the same, because an economic future that is healthier, more resilient, more just and more prosperous can simply no longer wait. We urge Members of Congress to join together and act immediately to pass the Build Back Better Act so that we can achieve these goals.

Sincerely,



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



Manish Bapna
President and Chief Executive Officer
Natural Resources Defense Council