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Legislative Alert: H.R. 4348

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Abstract

[Excerpt] On behalf of the AFL-CIO. I write in strong support of H.R. 4348, a bill to extend the surface transportation law until September 30, 2012. Time is running out to reauthorize the massive transportation infrastructure bill, which is currently operating on its ninth extension. Any further delay will render state and local governments unable to plan for the remainder of the construction season, putting tens of thousands of jobs at risk.

Keywords

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Comments

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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ARLENE HOLT BAKER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5057

April 18, 2012

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I write in strong support of H.R. 4348, a bill to extend the surface transportation law until September 30, 2012. Time is running out to reauthorize the massive transportation infrastructure bill, which is currently operating on its ninth extension. Any further delay will render state and local governments unable to plan for the remainder of the construction season, putting tens of thousands of jobs at risk.

Most importantly, this bill would be used to go to conference with the Senate-passed bill, absent the myriad controversial issues that plagued HR 7. MAP-21, which passed the Senate by a wide margin, would support 1.8 million jobs, plus as many as one million additional jobs with the expansion of the TIFIA loan program. Now is the time for the House to pass a bill and send it to conference with the Senate.

We also support the bi-partisan amendment offered by Congressman Boustany (R-LA), known as the RAMP Act, which ensures that the revenue coming into the Harbor Maintenance Trust fund is used and spent on harbor maintenance.

With unemployment exceeding 8 percent for the third year, and even higher levels of joblessness in the construction industry, the need for a multi-year investment in infrastructure jobs has never been greater. Voting this week to go to conference with MAP-21 will probably be our last chance this year to create millions of good jobs for U.S. workers, and to stop the U.S. from falling further behind the rest of the world in creating new transportation systems for the 21st century.

I urge you to pass this legislation and send it to conference and help get America back to work.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT