



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
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WORKERS®**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

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International
Secretary-Treasurer

August 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL

To: All Members of Congress

Re: IBEW Support for the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 775,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in strong support of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the nation's largest-ever climate bill and most comprehensive attempt at lowering the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. The legislation's targeted investments in energy and manufacturing tax credits and grants with strong labor standards will unleash a generation of new low-carbon energy projects in a wide range of technologies as well as promote a renaissance in domestic manufacturing, leading to the growth of good-paying union jobs with benefits that support families and uplift communities.

The IBEW favors policies ensuring federally funded construction and infrastructure projects meet the highest labor standards, including apprenticeship and Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements and Buy American standards for key materials and products. The IBEW is heartened to see such provisions in this package.

In particular, the labor standard requirements for solar and wind federal tax credits will help ensure that these renewable energy projects, which are so critical to the future, are built by highly-skilled workers in family-sustaining careers.

The IBEW has been working in the renewable energy space for years, and our highly trained electricians have long been on the cutting edge of these technologies, including battery storage technology, which will be necessary to solve one of the most pressing challenges for the intermittent nature of solar and wind power.

For national security and economic reasons, it is critical that the United States establish a domestic solar manufacturing supply chain and that manufacturers be required to meet strong labor standards. These policies will reduce reliance on Chinese-made solar panels and ensure that the United States maintains a secure, self-reliant electrical grid.

The IBEW supports the legislation's proposed \$2 billion in grants to retool existing auto manufacturing facilities that will manufacture low-emission vehicles, as well as its \$20 billion in loans to build new clean vehicle manufacturing facilities across the country, which will ensure that auto manufacturing jobs stay in the communities that depend on them.





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All Members of U.S. Congress
August 6, 2022
Page 2

The IBEW supports the legislation's provisions to encourage the development of carbon capture utilization and storage, which has the potential to achieve meaningful carbon reductions at power generation and industrial plants while highlighting American engineering and manufacturing and creating tens of thousands of new jobs. The commercialization of this technology would provide the United States with a critical technology it could export to other countries that are significant consumers of fossil fuels, such as China and India.

The IBEW also supports the development of advanced nuclear technologies and extending the lives of current nuclear reactors because nuclear is the only source of zero-emissions baseload energy production. The IBEW supports the legislation's production tax credit for nuclear, as the United States is unlikely to meet renewed commitments to cut carbon emissions without nuclear as part of the energy mix.

The promises of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to modernize and expand the electric grid will help bring new clean energy generation to consumers, strengthen grid reliability, and help the United States meet its important climate goals. However, siting and permitting are two of the biggest barriers to transmission construction. IBEW supports the Inflation Reduction Act's proposals to improve the permitting process and ensure project applications are finalized in a reasonable, expeditious manner.

Finally, reducing the federal deficit through a new 15% minimum corporate tax seeks to reverse decades of tax policy that has allowed some of the largest corporations to evade paying their fair share in federal taxes. Closing this corporate loophole helps level the playing field for the large number of American manufacturers and other IBEW employers that already pay that amount or more.

The IBEW joins fellow labor union members in manufacturing and the AFL-CIO in strongly supporting the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. We remain a ready partner with elected officials from both sides of the aisle to help reach its lofty but achievable climate-saving goals. On behalf of the IBEW and its members, I strongly recommend a yes vote for energy independence and security on the road to a low-carbon future when the bill comes to the floor.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:efw

