



“The IBEW is a leading voice for working families because the IBEW’s focus has consistently been on improving members’ lives and powering an economy that works for everyone. And these priorities are amplified by 775,000 members — working in various sectors — utility, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroad, and government.”

— International President
Kenneth W. Cooper



IBEW POLICY BRIEF

Chapter 1: Significant Legislative Activity Under the Biden Administration

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021

ARPA was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. It provided crisis support for unemployed workers and extended several federally funded jobless benefit programs, such as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. These programs offered additional weeks of unemployment aid for those who no longer qualify for state benefits. It also provided the third round of stimulus checks worth \$1,400.

The American Rescue Plan included the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act (the "Butch Lewis Act"). The Butch Lewis act was a major legislative priority for the IBEW that shores up troubled multiemployer pension plans and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation at no cost to participants.

During the pandemic, the passenger transportation system in America was hit hard by a steep ridership decline. The IBEW represents thousands of permanent employees and construction and maintenance workers in this sector. These workers depend on the work hours generated by capital improvements.

The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) provided \$30.5 billion for Federal Transit Administration grants and \$1.7 billion for grants to Amtrak. ARPA funding also included a set aside to resume service on long-distance routes and recall furloughed employees.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

The IBEW supported the historic \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or "BIL"). President Biden signed the BIL into law on November 15, 2021. It is the most significant investment in American infrastructure since World War II.

President Joe Biden invited International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and IBEW members from across the United States to the White House signing ceremony for President Biden's landmark legislative achievement.

Members of the IBEW and the Government Affairs Department urged members of Congress for years to pass an infrastructure package. Finally, with its passage, the law provides substantial funding to modernize nearly every aspect of our nation's infrastructure.

This Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will rebuild America's roads, bridges, and rail lines. The BIL will also expand access to clean drinking water and high-speed internet. It tackles the climate crisis, advances environmental justice, and invests in communities left behind. The legislation will help ease inflationary pressures and strengthen supply chains by making long overdue improvements for our nation's ports, airports, rail, and roads. The investments provided in the BIL will create good-paying union jobs and grow the economy sustainably and equitably. Combined with President Biden's other legislative achievements, analysts expect that the BIL will add, on average, 1.5 million jobs per year for the next ten years.

About half of the BIL's spending reauthorizes existing programs, while the other half represents spending on new programs. More than half of its investments will improve and modernize transportation infrastructure, with \$284 billion going directly toward infrastructure reserves for highways, roads and bridges, highway safety, ports and waterways, airports, rail, transit, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In addition, the law invests \$266 billion in other infrastructure sectors, including water, broadband, energy and power, environmental remediation, and climate resiliency projects.

The CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 "CHIPS"

Congress and President Biden enacted CHIPS on August 9, 2022. "CHIPS" provides \$52 billion to incentivize the production of critical semiconductor chips in the United States.

Semiconductors are a crucial component of smartphones, automobiles, advanced medical equipment, and other electronic consumer products. These historic investments will strengthen American manufacturing and supply chains and help to grow the workforce of the future.

CHIPS included Davis-Bacon prevailing wage protections for the construction and modification of semiconductor manufacturing facilities.

Semiconductors are critical to the operation of nearly every electronic device. With a sufficient supply of domestic semiconductors, the U.S. can make its essential decarbonization initiatives possible. This includes policy efforts in electric vehicle expansion and electricity generation modernization. With the signing of CHIPS, the U.S. can reverse the trend of offshoring jobs, bolster domestic supply chains, and strengthen American security and competitiveness. CHIPS will create jobs for the IBEW members who work in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 - "IRA "

The IRA is a significant policy win for the IBEW with the potential to create work opportunities for tens of thousands of IBEW members and expand IBEW membership in traditional power generation, renewable generation, construction, and manufacturing. The IRA is the most aggressive action in tackling the climate crisis in American history. The law’s provisions lift American workers and create good-paying union jobs across the country.

The IRA will lower the deficit and ensure that the ultra-wealthy and corporations pay their fair share in taxes. The law guarantees that no one making under \$400,000 yearly will pay a penny more in taxes due to its signing.

The legislation includes critical strong labor protections and domestic content requirements tied to the over \$300 billion in tax credits for renewable and traditional energy infrastructure projects. Such protections will guarantee that these projects will create middle-class, family-sustaining career opportunities for IBEW members and other working people across the country.

It also makes historic investments in domestic energy production and manufacturing, creating opportunities for working people and lifting a financial weight off their shoulders.

The law will ensure access to critical technologies, increase national security, and remove impediments and roadblocks to the domestic production of future technologies. The CHIPS and Science Act will also strengthen U.S. technology and innovation infrastructure by providing resources to the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy, and other federal technology and science efforts.

Chapter Resources

Hyperlink	URL	QR
American Rescue Plan Act Resources:		
FACT SHEET: One Year	https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0645	
American Rescue Plan Impact: Awardee Map	https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/American-rescue-plan	
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources:		
Build.gov	https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/?utm_source=build.gov	

Open Funding Opportunities	https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/nofos-to-know/	
Maps of Funding	https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/maps-of-progress/	
Tech. Assist. Guide	https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/technical-assistance-guide/	
BIL Guidebook	https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA-V2.pdf	
State Fact Sheets	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/04/white-house-releases-state-fact-sheets-highlighting-the-impact-of-the-infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act-nationwide/	

Inflation Reduction Act Resources:

FACT SHEET: Workers and Families	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/19/fact-sheet-the-inflation-reduction-act-supports-workers-and-families/	
FACT SHEET: Advances Environmental Justice	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/17/fact-sheet-inflation-reduction-act-advances-environmental-justice/	
FACT SHEET: Helps Rural Communities	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/17/fact-sheet-how-the-inflation-reduction-act-helps-rural-communities/	
State Fact Sheets	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/17/state-fact-sheets-how-the-inflation-reduction-act-lowers-energy-costs-create-jobs-and-tackles-climate-change-across-america/	

CHIPS and Science Act Resources:

CHIPS.gov	https://www.nist.gov/chips	
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[FACT SHEET: Will Lower Costs, Create Jobs](#)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/09/fact-sheet-chips-and-science-act-will-lower-costs-create-jobs-strengthen-supply-chains-and-counter-china/>



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