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KENNETH W. COOPER
International President

PAUL A. NOBLE
International
Secretary-Treasurer

May 22, 2024

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Armed Services
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Armed Services
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: IBEW Opposition to Anti-PLA Executive Order Amendment

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith:

On behalf of the over 820,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to you in opposition to the proposed amendment to the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act that would exempt Department of Defense military construction projects over \$35 million from President Biden's Executive Order 14063 relating to the use of project labor agreements (PLAs) for federal construction projects. IBEW members' livelihoods depend on this vote, and the IBEW will score a vote on the amendment on the IBEW Scorecard.

The amendment in question would effectively repeal the PLA Executive Order for the anticipated largest federal agency user of PLAs. In doing so, it would all but guarantee that the Defense Department and military branches would not even consider using a PLA – preventing the Department from taking advantage of the benefits a PLA provides to the taxpayer and host community of the project.

Contractors, owners, and workers rely on PLAs as a necessary project delivery model that covers a project's entire construction and creates a stable system between the project's owner, contractor, and workforce. This form of agreement has been used for almost one hundred years constantly and extensively by all levels of government in cooperation with both private and public sectors. One of the best examples of a PLA saving money and keeping a project on time and on budget was its use on Naval Base Kitsap in Washington state. The project was completed under budget, saving federal taxpayers approximately \$200 million.

Evidence repeatedly demonstrates the cost-efficiency, effectiveness, and assurance of safety and security of PLAs – all by relying on a model that guarantees a well-trained, highly skilled workforce. PLAs provide benefits across



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the board, and since it is not legally required to join a union to work on a federal construction project using a PLA, non-union workers can benefit from the work. Union or non-union contractors are free to bid on and work under a project covered by a PLA. The agreement simply defines a standard of quality, cost, and worker well-being and does not restrict who can work on the project.

The IBEW urges House Armed Services Committee members to vote against the Amendment, ensuring that federal construction projects are delivered on time, on budget, and are good for business and the American taxpayer. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

KWC:bag