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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT KEY TO JOBS

WHEREAS: Ohio's working men and women face crumbling pot holed streets and roadways, structurally deficient bridges, aging public transit systems, expanding need for water and wastewater treatment facilities, upgrades to the utility transmission systems as well modernization of its industrial facilities, ports, and commitment to contemporary technology; and

WHEREAS: The State of Ohio has failed to keep up the investment in these public and private infrastructure needs by continuing the 28 year practice of reducing revenue, giving away tax reductions to corporations and individuals already with great wealth, and placing more burden on local government and individuals; and

WHEREAS: The then presidential candidate promised a one trillion dollar investment in American infrastructure, built with American steel, aluminum, copper, plastics, piping, wire, concrete, stone, ceramics, electronics, technologies made by American workers with American know-how skills. But that promise has transformed into grandstanding, grid-lock, and no investment to address our common needs; and

WHEREAS: Ohio has one of the nation's largest interstate systems and a major public transit network that would benefit from nationwide investment in infrastructure; and

- Ohio has the nation's fourth largest interstate system with 6,700 lane miles.
- Ohio's public transportation agencies serve more than 300,000 passengers every weekday. Sixty percent of Ohio's buses will need to be replaced over the next 10 years, an expense of \$750 million. The City of Cleveland's rail system alone would require \$400 million to replace its fleet of rail cars and repair its tracks.
- Nearly a quarter of Ohio's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Replacement of the Bent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati is but one major example.
- An estimated 109,000 Ohioans work in highway construction in the state.
- An estimated \$14 billion will need to be spent to keep Ohio's wastewater systems up to date over the next 20 years.

WHEREAS: Ohio US Senator Sherrod Brown and his colleagues submitted the “Blueprint to Rebuild America’s Infrastructure” legislation on behalf of America’s working women and men to address the structural deficiencies in our bridges, roadway, public transit systems, utility transmission grids and water and wastewater treatment systems to name but a few issues; and

WHEREAS: This blueprint would hold the President and the Congress accountable for their campaign claims to support American workers – and rebuild the economy at home; and

WHEREAS: Ohio lags behind the rest of the nation in job growth in part because of the lack of investment in Ohio’s aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Infrastructure Investment in Ohio has the potential to create thousands of good paying, family sustaining jobs in our State; and

WHEREAS: Labor’s endorsed candidate for Governor, Richard Cordray, has laid out a concrete plan to invest in Ohio workers by rebuilding our bridges and roads, eliminating lead from older homes, upgrading our water and public transit systems, and building broadband networks that businesses need to operate in today’s economy; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Ohio AFL-CIO, as part of its ongoing commitment to Keeping-It-Made- in-America and to foster economic development of jobs for all Ohioans, supports the Blueprint to Rebuild America’s Infrastructure legislation and urges the new governor to submit similar legislation to the General Assembly in the biennial budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO supports state and local government investment in Repairing and Maintaining our Roads, Bridges, and Freight Facilities, Expanding Public Transportation, Extending Access to Broadband Digital Internet Technology Connectivity and Upgrading Ohio’s Water, Sewer Systems, Utility Systems and Protecting our Water Resources.

Submitted by: Ohio State Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters and Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans