

Cosponsor the Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act (H.R. 2831)

Introduced by Reps. Paul Mitchell (R-MI), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Glenn Thompson (R-PA), Jim Langevin (D-RI)

Infrastructure in the United States is in critical need of an upgrade. The American Society of Civil Engineers graded the U.S. system a D+ based on its capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation. Any investment to improve our transportation, energy, construction, and infrastructure systems could create millions of new jobs, requiring millions of skilled workers to fill them.

A study by the Center of Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University estimated that a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment would create 11 million new jobs. Nearly half of these would require more than a high school diploma, but not a four-year degree. Infrastructure industries are already struggling to meet workforce demands.

To make sure that infrastructure investments grow the economy, and support workers and, the U.S. must invest in the creation of a diverse pipeline of workers with skills necessary to access in-demand opportunities.

The Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act

The BUILDS Act would support workforce development and apprenticeship programs in transportation, energy, construction, and other targeted industries in a major infrastructure investment. The bill would provide grants to industry partnerships, which bring together local businesses and industry organizations, workforce boards, labor, education institutions, community-based organizations and training providers to support workforce training programs in infrastructure-industry jobs. The industry partnerships would be responsible for supporting workers through pre-employment services like skills training, adult basic education, work attire and tools, child care, transportation, early employment support like mentoring, targeted training, case management, and continuing employment services for a period of at least six months to make sure the worker succeeds in the new role.

Support Small-and Medium-Sized Businesses

Small- and medium-sized businesses are the nation's job creators, but often do not have the resources to develop workforce development programs on their own. The BUILDS Act invests in industry and sector partnerships that would help engage business in work-based learning and provide support services to workers to make sure they succeed in these programs.

Support Industry Partnerships

The BUILDS Act helps expand access to paid, on-the-job training programs that respond to local workforce needs. Industry partnerships are a proven strategy for supporting the creation and expansion of work-based learning programs that benefit workers and the economy. Congress requires states and local areas to support the development of these partnerships under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), but no dedicated funding has been provided for these activities.

Support Workers

The BUILDS Act enables local industry partnerships to provide pre-employment, early employment, and continuing employment services to workers. These partnerships will help increase diversity in the transportation, infrastructure, and energy sectors by providing individuals who have historically faced barriers to employment with the support services and training they need to succeed and find better-paying jobs.

To sign on as a cosponsor, or for more information, please contact Sarah Feldpausch with Rep. Mitchell (R-MI) at Sarah.Feldpausch@mail.house.gov (5-2106) or Maxine Sugarman with Rep. Bonamici (D-OR) at Maxine.Sugarman@mail.house.gov (5-0855).