## DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES



A modern infrastructure means jobs. Good infrastructure requires manufacturing materials, construction and maintenance. When American infrastructure is built and maintained correctly with American-made materials, it supports domestic manufacturing and ensures taxpayer dollars stay in the U.S. Our country's infrastructure also must be made more efficient, saving energy and reducing waste.

## **VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN'S RESPONSES**

## TO USW QUESTIONNAIRE ON DOMESTIC ISSUES:

Vice President Biden has proposed a **transformational \$1 trillion federal investment in infrastructure** to create millions of middle-class jobs. He notes his experience in overseeing nearly \$800 billion in spending during the Recovery Act in 2009, and that he will "ensure every dollar of these investments creates good, union jobs that expand the middle class and revitalize communities." This investment will ensure that cities, towns, and rural areas all across our country share in that growth. His plan includes:

- Repair of our highways, roads, and bridges
- Investments in freight infrastructure, including trucking, freight corridors, freight rail, transfer facilities
- Increased funding to keep goods moving quickly through our ports and waterways

VP Biden's infrastructure plan will also strengthen our middle class and ensure that the benefits of the investment are broadly shared. He supports strong **Buy America language** ensuring that infrastructure projects paid for with public dollars use American-made goods. He also supports prevailing wage requirements.

Biden states he "will ensure federal dollars do not flow to employers who engage in union-busting activities, participate in wage theft, or violate labor law."

**Biden supports the "Raise the Wage Act,"** which raises the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024, saying that no one in this country should ever again be denied a living wage.

Biden notes that climate change is personal to him, and he will ensure that American workers are not at a competitive disadvantage. He has put forth a plan in which America can lead the world by:

- Rejoining the 2015 Paris Climate Accord that the Trump administration abruptly left
- Enacting a national strategy to develop low-carbon manufacturing in every state through tax credits and subsidies to upgrade manufacturing facilities
- Imposing a border tax or fee on carbon-intensive products imported from countries that are failing to meet their climate and environmental obligations. VP Biden will not allow other nations, including China, to game the system by becoming destination economies for polluters, undermining and exploiting American workers and businesses

VP Biden recognizes that over the past several decades our economy has experienced **dramatic technological change** and increased economic inequality. According to Biden, work is about dignity, and we cannot allow technological developments to leave workers behind. VP Biden notes his commitment to ensuring that all Americans benefit from technology, have access to lifelong learning and training, and are able to organize and collectively bargain.

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