



*The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) is a leading grassroots voice for working families. The IBEW represents approximately 775,000 active and retired members throughout North America who work in a wide variety of industries including utility, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroad, and government. We are focused on improving our members' lives and powering an economy that works for everyone.*



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# IBEW POLICY BRIEF

## OVERVIEW: MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, primarily to combat the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It provided crisis support for unemployed workers that extended several federally funded jobless benefit programs, such as the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation programs, which offered additional weeks of unemployment aid for individuals who no longer qualified for state benefits and provided a third round of stimulus checks worth \$1,400.

The American Rescue Plan included the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act, 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 the precipitous decline in ridership. The IBEW represents thousands of workers in this sector, as well as thousands of construction and maintenance workers who depend on the work hours generated by capital improvements. The American Rescue Plan provided \$30.5 billion for Federal Transit Administration grants, \$1.7 billion for grants to Amtrak, with funding set aside to resume service on long-distance routes and recall furloughed employees.

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

IBEW supports the historic \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” or “BIL”) that was signed into law on November 15, 2021, the largest investment in American infrastructure in decades. Notably, IBEW members were invited to join President Joe Biden and IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson at the White House signing ceremony.

The BIL is President Biden’s landmark legislative achievement. IBEW members 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.

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. The law also invests \$266 billion in other infrastructure sectors, including water, broadband, energy and power, environmental remediation, and climate resiliency projects.

### Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf)



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Database

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GuideBookDataset\\_FINAL.xlsx](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GuideBookDataset_FINAL.xlsx)



NABTU Bipartisan Infrastructure Spreadsheet

(Fill out the form for access)

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/68f9c4d0a7f643898a983985081d43b6>

## Biden Administration’s Coalition on Building Performance Standards

The Biden Administration has teamed up with states, cities, labor, and industry to launch the Building Performance Standards Coalition, the first-of-its-kind partnership between 33 state and local governments dedicated to delivering cleaner, healthier, and more affordable buildings.

The goal of the coalition is to inclusively design and implement building performance standards along with complementary programs and policies at the state and local level to create good-paying, union jobs, lower energy bills for consumers, keep residents and workers safe from harmful pollution, and cut emissions from the building sector. The coalition builds upon the Department of Energy’s (DOE)'s efforts to upgrade 1 million homes. It makes progress toward President Biden’s goal to retrofit 4 million buildings and 2 million homes during his first term.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides more than \$1.8 billion to support building sector policies, including \$500 million for DOE’s State Energy Program, which provides funding and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal governments to advance state-led energy initiatives; \$550 million for DOE’s Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program to assist eligible governments to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation policy and projects in their jurisdiction; \$250 million for grants to capitalize state-level revolving loan funds for energy efficiency; and \$500 million for competitive grants to fund efficiency and renewable improvements in public school facilities.

For additional information and to see if your local officials have joined the Building Performance Standards Coalition, visit:



<https://nationalbpscoalition.org/>

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