



Thomas M. Conway
International President

July 7, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: United Steelworkers supports the “Buy America” amendment to The Great American Outdoors Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the members of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW), I write to you regarding **The Great American Outdoors Act**. The USW is the largest manufacturing union in North America representing workers in multiple industries, which supply our country’s infrastructure needs.

As Americans deal with the COVID crisis and record unemployment, there must be a renewed focus on domestic manufacturing and American jobs. The effort to address the deferred maintenance backlog across the federal land management agencies and provide mandatory and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in The Great American Outdoors Act is important to improving the country’s public lands and public resources. However, just as important is where our parks’ infrastructure is made.

The jobs crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic highlights a terrible omission in this bill. The current version of this legislation has no domestic procurement provisions to ensure that billions of federal dollars will be spent on American workers and the goods they produce. Now is not the time to leave American workers behind.

The USW encourages the inclusion of a bi-partisan “Buy America” amendment to address this oversight. Including strong Buy America language will ensure that federal spending prioritizes American workers and manufacturing. With nearly 40 million Americans out of work, USW believes American parks should be improved with American made infrastructure and jobs.

Our union strongly urges inclusion of a strong Buy America amendment in The Great American Outdoors Act to let Americans know which members of Congress support domestic manufacturers. Buy America provisions are well established with broad bipartisan support and ensure that American workers and manufacturers are given priority when tax payers' dollars are spent. Without the inclusion of the Buy America amendment, the USW cannot support this legislation. We urge you to include the amendment, and when included, pass the Great American Outdoors Act.

Sincerely,


Thomas Conway
International President