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# Investing in America's Infrastructure to Create High Quality Jobs and Protect the Environment

Our nation must move forward with an ambitious plan to rebuild and transform America's infrastructure that will boost our economy, create millions of jobs, and strengthen our communities, while simultaneously reducing pollution and combating climate change. We should be leading the world in building the innovative infrastructure systems that will ensure our global competitiveness in the 21st century and beyond.

A robust and ambitious infrastructure plan must address:

**Power and the electric grid**, including electric grid modernization, expansion of clean energy and transmission;

**Methane leaks** in the natural gas distribution sector;

**Surface transportation**, including modernizing our roads and bridges, investing in and expanding our transit systems, and leading in the next generation of transportation infrastructure;

**Industrial infrastructure and advanced manufacturing**, including making our industrial infrastructure more resilient and efficient, and boosting clean energy and transportation manufacturing;

**Water infrastructure**, including addressing lead and other harmful contaminants in water,

rehabilitating and upgrading water distribution and treatment infrastructure, implementing sustainable stormwater solutions, upgrading our levees, and increasing affordability;

**Buildings**, including investing in and making our schools, hospitals, commercial, and residential buildings cleaner and more energy efficient; and

**Natural infrastructure**, including improving climate resilience through natural defenses that act as carbon sinks (including wetlands, forests, dunes, and grasslands), recovering America's wildlife, reclaiming mines, and addressing the public lands maintenance backlog.

## **Massive Job Creation and Pollution Reduction Potential**

Investing now to repair these aspects of our infrastructure will boost our economy and create millions of jobs, while also reducing pollution and combating climate change. BlueGreen Alliance research has found that investing an estimated \$2.2 trillion in America's infrastructure in these sectors to improve them from a "D+" grade overall to a "B" grade has the potential to **support or create an additional 14.5 million job-years across the U.S. economy**, add a cumulative \$1.66 trillion to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over 10 years, and reduce greenhouse gas pollution, versus a business as-usual approach.

Making these smart investments will also pay dividends for our environment by reducing air and water pollution—including the emissions driving climate change—as well as reducing the use of materials and chemicals that are hazardous to human health. For too long, America’s leaders have neglected our infrastructure and cut vital resources and undermined workers at local and state levels of government that protect us all. Repairing America’s infrastructure systems is an opportunity to boost the middle-class, build up American manufacturing, support local jobs, reduce our climate impact, and improve public health.

## High-Road Standards Needed

We will accrue these benefits only if we **tackle this challenge the right way**. To ensure we maximize the benefits of our infrastructure investments for communities, the environment, and workers, any infrastructure package must:

### Create family-sustaining jobs:

- Ensure all projects built with public resources are subject to **Buy America** standards that maximize the return to taxpayers and the American economy;
- Enforce **Davis-Bacon** provisions that ensure workers are paid prevailing wages;
- Utilize **project labor agreements (PLAs), community benefit agreements, local hire**, and other provisions and practices that prioritize improving training, working conditions, and project benefits;
- Maintain and grow jobs in the public sector necessary to maintain and operate assets, and ensure compliance and project quality.



### Reduce pollution and make our communities more resilient:

- Drive forward-looking planning and investments that meet environmental standards and **build resilient infrastructure systems and communities**;
- Prioritize use of the most **efficient, resilient, and cleanest materials and products** with the lowest carbon and toxicity footprints;

### Maximize benefits to our workers and communities, especially those most in need:

- Enhance **workforce training and development programs** to expand the number of skilled workers in new and existing industries and in the public sector;
- Increase **economic opportunities** for communities and local workers, especially for people of color and low-income communities;

### Make a robust, impactful investment:

- Make a **robust, public investment** in our infrastructure systems;
- Investment must be **broad**—tackling the full array of our infrastructure needs.



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