

Talking points for Frank Carroll on Resolution on Good Jobs, Tough Times

Madam Chairman, I'm Frank Carroll from the IBEW delegation. I'm Vice President of the Second District which includes all of New England.

This broad ranging resolution is an excellent summary of the disastrous policies that have brought our economy low and destroyed millions of jobs.

My home local is a construction local in Bridgeport, Connecticut. My local and many others in all the trades around the country are trying new things, building relationships and getting work anyway we can. What we really need - everywhere - is an economy that is growing again.

The stimulus passed by Congress earlier this year was a tremendous beginning, but we need to ensure that funds reach the necessary areas. Like the resolution says we need a world class infrastructure, significant investment in transportation, and a highly educated and well-trained workforce to put it all together. We must push further for additional projects that will not only bring jobs and rebuild the economy, but also aide our manufacturing sector and address the energy and environmental issues.

One project that brings it all together is the proposed natural gas pipeline in Alaska. Its estimated that tens of thousands of jobs will be created: from the manufacturing of steel pipe and its components, to their transportation and shipping, to the construction that would be required under a project labor agreement, and the necessary maintenance many years to come.

Even though this project is thousands of miles from my home, it will benefit my community and communities across the country. This is the type of infrastructure projects we must continue to fight for. Ones that will rebuild our economy through good jobs.

We've talked a lot about young workers at this convention. The sooner we build a stronger economy, the sooner we will be able to offer the kinds of opportunities that today's young workers need.

Thank you, and I urge adoption of this resolution.