

## editor's note



### **WHETHER OR NOT YOU LIKE PRESIDENT TRUMP, WHETHER OR NOT YOU RESPECT HIS APPOINTMENTS AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU AGREE WITH HIS POLICIES, THERE'S ONE POSITION THAT ALMOST ALL AMERICANS CAN RALLY BEHIND: HIS PROPOSAL TO SPEND \$1 TRILLION ON INFRASTRUCTURE TO CREATE "A NEW PROGRAM OF NATIONAL REBUILDING."**

AISC has released a position paper supporting this proposal and rallying behind his statement that "this effort will be guided by two core principles: buy American and hire American." (To view the white paper, visit [www.aisc.org/hireamerican](http://www.aisc.org/hireamerican).)

Currently, the U.S. structural steel industry (including fabricators, producers, detailers, erectors and others supplying items such as bolts, coatings, and welding equipment) directly employs 180,000 American workers. But as the white paper explains, "The American steel supply chain is in jeopardy, however. Since 2015, more than 15,800 direct jobs in the iron and steel industry have been lost."

The position paper outlines AISC's belief that Buy America requirements should apply to all public infrastructure projects, regardless of how specific project financing may be arranged. "AISC does not take a position on whether or what types of nontraditional infrastructure options should ultimately be adopted, but urges that whatever policy is adopted

explicitly requires that Buy America requirements be incorporated in the enabling legislation."

Recently, some states have tried to circumvent existing Buy America provisions through various loopholes (such as what was used for the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge). AISC believes that these loopholes need to be closed.

I urge you to read AISC's white paper, to share it with your elected representatives in Congress and to make sure they understand how important this issue is to you. Your voice as a constituent is essential for the message to be heard.

Let's ensure that projects funded or financed with our tax dollars and proposed tax credits are fabricated domestically. Let's make sure the taxes we pay benefit American workers and businesses.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Melnick".

**SCOTT MELNICK**  
EDITOR

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