Building America’s Energy Future
The Dakota Access Pipeline

Growth in the energy industry can put millions of men and women to work, power U.S. economic growth, make our nation energy independent and build a foundation to slow global warming. LIUNA members are on the frontlines supporting the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) because it will create good jobs, improve the local economy, and unlock affordable domestic energy. DAPL will move domestic light sweet crude oil from North Dakota’s rapidly expanding Bakken and Three Forks production sites to Patoka, Illinois. From there, the fuel will move to major refining markets across the Midwest, East Coast and Gulf Coast. DAPL will generate millions of dollars in tax revenue and support more than 8,000 construction careers.

Building pipelines creates steady, reliable construction careers while boosting the economy.

- Growing pipeline jobs for LIUNA members can strengthen communities and our entire country.
- DAPL construction will generate an estimated $50 million annually in property taxes and nearly $74 million in sales taxes for North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois.
- Pipeline work is a lifeline to good union jobs with family-supporting pay, healthcare and retirement benefits. The work is a ladder to the middle class.
- Energy investment doesn’t only create steady, reliable construction careers. For example, the research firm HIS found that every natural gas industry job indirectly results in three more jobs.

Safety and quality construction are top priorities for Dakota Access and LIUNA.

- DAPL would be built by LIUNA members, whose organization has more than a century of experience safely building pipelines in virtually every state and province of the U.S. and Canada. Over the last five years, LIUNA members have worked more than 80 million hours in the pipeline sector.
- LIUNA invests about $100 million a year in construction skills training through more than 70 mobile and fixed training centers. Those centers offer 164 hours of pipeline-specific instruction.
- Pipelines are the most reliable, safest, direct and cost-effective way to transport oil. DAPL would be more environmentally friendly than high-risk rail and truck transportation. According to a recent ProPublica report, pipelines are 70 times safer than trucks. Roughly 70 percent of America’s oil and petroleum is moved through 2.5 million miles of existing pipeline.

Pipelines are key to making our country energy independent and addressing climate change.

- The boom in natural gas production has already reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., in part by replacing coal energy.
- For the first time in modern history, America is on the cusp of energy independence that can free us from reliance on hostile nations and regions for fuel.
- LIUNA supports an “all-of-the-above” energy policy and fully supports development of renewables and low-carbon emission energy. LIUNA members are leaders in energy efficiency and are proud to have built some of the nation’s largest wind and solar utility projects.