

# BARACK OBAMA

September 16, 2008

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
900 Seventh Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Friends,

The last several years have been a challenging time for our families and a challenging time for America. That's why it is such an honor for me to have the strong support of the IBEW.

You have watched the rise of a global economy with new rules and new risks, and seen the Republican-led government do its best to shift those risks onto the backs of the American worker. I have a different vision. I will empower you to work, to organize, and to raise your families.

Over two decades ago, I turned down a job on Wall Street and went to work as a community organizer on the South Side of Chicago. The job was to help lift up neighborhoods that had been devastated by the closing of local steel plants. So I worked with unions and churches and pushed city government to open up job centers and help create new opportunities.

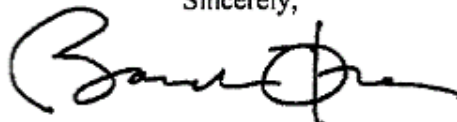
Since then, I have continued to fight for workers and unions everywhere I've gone, and I'm running for President to put your needs at the top of the White House agenda. America needs the men and women of the IBEW. We especially need you to build our clean energy future. Over the next ten years, I will invest \$150 billion in developing renewable energy, building more efficient cars and trucks, advancing the next generation of biofuels, and bringing clean coal plants online. This will create up to five million new high-paying American jobs. We need you to fill them, and to train the next generation of workers.

We're also going to create universal health care and I've got detailed plans to cover everyone. We're ready to play offense for working Americans and make sure workers building America's infrastructure are making the prevailing wage and getting the benefits they deserve. After Katrina, George Bush suspended Davis-Bacon. And John McCain isn't much different. We will strengthen Davis-Bacon when I'm President of the United States of America.

But it's not enough to make sure we're paying workers fair wages and benefits. We need to make sure the government uses project labor agreements to encourage completion of projects on time and on budget. One of the first things George Bush did when he got into office was to ban PLAs. One of the first things I'll do as President is repeal that ban.

I appreciate your friendship and your hard work to bring us this far. This is our moment. This is our time. And if we work as hard as we can in the remaining days of this election, then together – you and I – we're going to change this country, and we're going to change this world. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



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