April 5, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Young,

We write to you today in support of proposed updates to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), as detailed in a recent report from the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment. This report represents an important opportunity to strengthen unions, lift up workers, and ensure local communities reap the full benefits of federal funding. We are committed to working with the Biden administration to implement the recommendations included in the report.

The report encourages OMB to explore and identify opportunities to update the Uniform Guidance, which dictates how states and localities can spend federal money. Proposed updates include:

- Allow states and localities to consider job, wage, and worker empowerment impacts when contracting with federal funds;
- Ensure states and localities have the freedom to apply worker-empowering, high-road conditions, including local hire and project labor agreement (PLA) obligations, on their subgrantees; and
- Ensure federal financial assistance programs cannot be used to deny workers the right to organize.

We strongly support these proposed updates and encourage OMB to begin formally updating the Uniform Guidance to include these new provisions. We want to be able to create fulfilling, safe, high-road jobs for our constituents, and make them accessible to communities that have not traditionally had access to jobs on projects funded through federal awards - especially for people of color, women, returning citizens, veterans, and other workers facing barriers to employment.

We applaud the Biden administration’s work around the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), a historic investment in our nation’s infrastructure that will enhance our competitiveness and create good-paying jobs. As states and cities begin receiving federal funding from this new law, we ask that OMB issue an interim guidance supporting these changes. This would allow states and cities to broadly implement policies, like local and targeted hire, while OMB proceeds with the formal update of the Uniform Guidance.
The interim guidance would also align with Section 25019 of the IIJA, which removes the prohibition on local hire for transportation construction projects. Excitingly, the Department of Transportation has already started to implement this provision by including local hire in their selection criteria for the next round of Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. We hope the projects funded by RAISE grants illustrate the benefits of local hire and embolden OMB to issue the interim guidance, allowing local hire on other projects funded through the IIJA.

Updating the Uniform Guidance is a crucial step to connecting good-paying, family-sustaining jobs to the communities that need them the most. Local hire programs can help communities address historic inequities by creating on-ramps to construction careers for low-income workers, who are more likely to be people of color. Money earned by those workers strengthens local economies by channeling resources back into their communities.

We look forward to working with the Biden administration to empower state and local recipients of federal funds to take substantial strides in improving job creation, quality, and equity for workers in hundreds of industries across the United States.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andy Kim</th>
<th>Chris Van Hollen</th>
<th>Conor Lamb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alan Lowenthal</th>
<th>Elizabeth Warren</th>
<th>Stephen F. Lynch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carolyn B. Maloney</th>
<th>Lucy McBath</th>
<th>Grace Meng</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gwen S. Moore</th>
<th>Seth Moulton</th>
<th>Jerrold Nadler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grace F. Napolitano</th>
<th>Marie Newman</th>
<th>Donald Norcross</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Congressional Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Holmes Norton</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Pascrell, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald M. Payne, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Pocan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Porter</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayanna Pressley</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda T. Sánchez</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Schakowsky</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam B. Schiff</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Scott</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Stansbury</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas R. Suozzi</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Swalwell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dina Titus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress