Hi Lauren,

Federal and local governments do a lot. They build roads and bridges, buy electric school buses for our kids, and invest in new green technologies.

Governments enter into contracts with private companies to make these important projects happen, yet there’s not a lot in these contracts that guarantees our billions of public dollars will create good jobs.

At Jobs to Move America, we believe the government should incentivize companies to create good jobs and then hold them accountable to their promises. Winning policies that promote high standards and accountability in government spending is one aspect of our multi-pronged approach to creating economic justice for all.

In 2022, we saw two major policy victories on this front. In California, SB 674, a bill we sponsored and worked on with State Sen. María Elena Durazo that supports the creation and retention of non-temporary, full-time jobs in green transportation manufacturing, became law. Then, LA Metro adopted a new Manufacturing Careers Policy, which requires companies that makes buses and trains for LA Metro to create good jobs and then builds in strong enforcement tools to make sure the companies follow through on their commitments.

Our signature policy tool, the U.S. Employment Plan (USEP), builds good jobs and equity into the procurement process. It’s easily customizable and has already created thousands of good jobs in cities and states.

This year, as recent federal funding for green infrastructure flows to cities and states, we want to repeat these victories. We want to:

- Win policies that ensure that funding for electric school buses provided by the bipartisan infrastructure law creates both clean air for kids and good jobs.
- Continue fighting to make sure policies like the Green Transit Green Jobs bill in New York, which passed the state senate last year, become law.
- Continue to push for transparency and accountability for tax incentives, especially in states like Alabama where these subsidies are fueling the manufacturing boom but not always creating good jobs.
Change federal rules to allow cities and states that use federal investments to create good local jobs.

Our public dollars are driving the green transition. We cannot miss this opportunity to ensure our public dollars create the most public good in the form of family-sustaining jobs.

In solidarity,

Miranda Nelson
National Director

What We're Reading

- On what would have been the 50th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, we wrote a blog on how access to reproductive care is a workers rights issue.
- The American Prospect published an excellent primer on the challenges and opportunities of enacting our new U.S. industrial policy that mentions our community benefits agreements as a way to ensure these policies result in good union jobs. “The JMA strategy—CBAs leading to good union jobs—is the template for the leverage the labor movement wants the Biden administration to exert on the corporate beneficiaries of its trillions of dollars in industrial-policy spending.”
- JMA was mentioned in an article previewing the U.S. Treasury and IRS’ tax guidelines for the EV credits created in the Inflation Reduction Act. “Ian Elder of Jobs to Move America said it is good to see that Treasury and the IRS are taking the sourcing requirement seriously. His organization would also like to see the proposed rules include disclosures about the types of jobs that companies are adding, the amount of wages paid, and whether employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements.”

Join us in the fight for good jobs and healthy communities.

Donate Today