

For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Hickey, 414-573-7579, [khickey@wisafclcio.org](mailto:khickey@wisafclcio.org)

## **Wisconsin AFL-CIO Statement on Removal of "Buy America" Provision in Water Infrastructure Bill**

(December 7, 2016) -- Following the removal of 'Buy America' language from the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by Republican House Leadership, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO released the following statement calling on House and Senate Leadership to reinsert American-made language:

"Removing Buy American provisions in the water infrastructure bill harms American manufacturing. We should be using American-made steel and iron to update our drinking water systems," said **Phil Neuenfeldt, President of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO**. "The Buy American provisions outlined in the Water Resources Development Act give confidence that American workers will make the industrial materials as well as perform the installation and maintenance of the systems. It's time to update and fix America's broken water system. Let's do it right by supporting American jobs and American workers along the way."

"The Buy American provisions in the water infrastructure bill protect and support good-paying American jobs. This language is about supporting people who make things in America. We call on Congress and President-elect Trump to reinsert American made language into the water bill," said **Stephanie Bloomingdale, Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO**. "We know that buying American made steel and iron helps American workers right here at home. Why does Rep. Paul Ryan want to support Chinese steel? Paul Ryan's removal of Buy American language knocks the legs out from American workers."

Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin introduced the Buy American legislation to ensure that American-made iron and steel is used in drinking water projects funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Senator Baldwin's 'Buy America' standard passed the Senate with bipartisan support before Republican House Leadership, led by Representative Paul Ryan, stripped Buy American provisions from the final water infrastructure bill. The Wisconsin AFL-CIO stands against the removal of Buy American provisions and urges President-elect Donald Trump and Congress to support American workers by restoring the Buy American provisions to the Water Resources Development Act.

###