

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 4, 2023

For more information:  
Robert Baylor, NUCA Director of Communications  
703-890-7807, [robert@nuca.com](mailto:robert@nuca.com)

**Labor Day Depends On Filing The Correct Paperwork**  
***Infrastructure Investments Are A Local Government's Duty***

(Fairfax, Va.) – *This op-ed written for NUCA Chairman-Elect Anthony L. Privitera was submitted exclusively to the Kansas City Star for publication during Labor Day 2023 weekend, Sept. 2-4:*

Labor Day is not just a day to rejoice in the fruits of our own labors. It's also a day to celebrate the routine benefits derived from the ability of a local government staff member to properly fill out the paperwork required to apply for federal infrastructure grants and loans.

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is injecting hundreds of billions into infrastructure investment. But if local jurisdictions don't know how to apply for these resources, then a lack of administrative knowledge will make these resources all for naught.

Kansas can tap into \$454 million for water projects, and Missouri \$866 million—if their state agencies apply for these resources.

My industry can't put an excavator bucket in the ground to upgrade an obsolete water system or install a new street lighting system until all of this administrative paperwork and process is completed.

Like a dance partner, the thousands of jobs in my local Kansas City region's utility construction industry are dependent on the ability of bureaucrats to competently fulfill these complex program requirements.

This Labor Day let's remember the heroes working underground in safely reinforced trenches, and those government employees who make these civilization-building projects possible.

###

**About The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA)**

Founded in 1964, the National Utility Contractors Association represents almost 2,000 U.S. utility and excavation contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers who provide the materials and

workforce to build and maintain our nation's intricate network of water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, and electric infrastructure. NUCA is found online at [www.nuca.com](http://www.nuca.com), and can be followed on Twitter at **@NUCA\_National**. The association's Twitter hashtags are #WeDigAmerica and #NUCAdigs.