

My name is Kaylon Ashford and I grew up and live in Saint Paul. I am 23 years old with a young family to support, but that has gotten harder and harder to do in today's economy.

I am currently working as a PCA, but recently my wages and hours were cut. It was a good job when I was still in high school, but the cut in pay just makes it too hard to make ends meet and puts more stress on my family now that I have to go out and find another job. I need a job that will provide a secure future for me and my family.

Recently, I have been working with the Urban League and their Big Step program, which in partnership with the Minnesota Laborers Union, is training people like me for construction jobs. I know it is hard work. And I know the hours can be long. And I know it can be cold, really cold! But I am looking forward to being a union construction worker and the health and retirement and training benefits that come along with that.

But the training I'm getting is only useful if there are actual jobs on actual projects for me to go to work on. That's why I feel that the American Jobs Act would be great for me and my family. It will expand opportunities for me and other young workers to get good family supporting jobs building roads and bridges our country definitely needs.

I want to thank Secretary Solis and President Obama for all they are doing to help create good jobs for young workers like me and other unemployed workers. Give us the chance and we will Build Minnesota so Minnesota Works.