



# VIEW*&*VISIONS

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**Tyler Beaty**  
J.F. Allen Company

Tyler Beaty is a Project Manager for the J.F. Allen Company, a general contracting firm headquartered in Buckhannon, West Virginia. Originally hired as a Quarry Engineer in 2013, Tyler quickly grew among the ranks to become Quarry Manager. In 2015, he was promoted to Project Manager of J.F. Allen's Construction Division. Tyler currently manages the quarry and construction divisions, as well as the company's estimating. He earned his Master of Science in Civil Engineering degree from West Virginia University.

# The Road to Growth

Across the great state of West Virginia, our infrastructure is in desperate need of investment. This fact was clearly stated in the American Society for Civil Engineers' 2020 Report Card for West Virginia's Infrastructure, which reported that our bridges, dams, drinking water, wastewater, and roads are in poor and/or at-risk conditions. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 that was passed by Congress and signed into law on November 15, 2021, will aid in the revitalization of West Virginia's infrastructure, while also providing excellent job opportunities

In addition to providing a boost to other West Virginia contractors and businesses, the influx of dollars into our infrastructure will not only create continued employment opportunities for the next decade, but the investment into our infrastructure will also produce a quality environment that will welcome tourists into the area and provide a continued revenue stream for years to come.

At J.F. Allen Company, the investment into our infrastructure is exciting, as we are a diverse company that provides a wide range

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to the residents of this great Mountain State. This bill is slated to invest nearly \$6 billion into West Virginia's infrastructure and provide jobs over the next decade.

of services in which the dollars will be directly related. Our company was founded in 1946 and has since established three asphalt plants and two aggregate quarries, as well







as general construction, asphalt, and utility divisions that will all benefit from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. This is a great opportunity for J.F. Allen Company to continue its proven success, keep its employees employed, and provide an avenue for continued growth within the state. We have anticipated and accounted for the increased workload to come by expanding our team of dedicated employees by over 15 percent since 2020 and will continue to employ quality applicants and grow the company.



A concern of J.F. Allen Company as a contractor is that the flow of dollars must be allocated within a time frame, and a large amount of dollars is going to be invested in a short amount of time. This creates a challenge for a lot of the small contractors in the area, as this amount of money brings in outside competition to the market and potentially provides contractor revenue to other states. While these large projects do create jobs for residents of West Virginia and revenue streams for local businesses, they lessen

the competition by reducing the amount of contractors capable of performing the work, attracting contractors from outside the state of West Virginia to enter the market and gain a share of the investment. This also creates higher market prices, which reduces the number of projects that can be completed. A concern for West Virginia contractors is that this influx of dollars will create an opportunity for outside firms to grow, and our state's money will not go as far as anticipated.

While this bill is certainly needed for our great state, another concern that is felt by every contractor or business owner is the need for quality employees. The unemployment rate in West Virginia, as of March 2022, is less than four percent and is the reason you see every employer hiring and businesses closing due to a shortage of quality people. People that want to work and support their families are currently working, so the induction of this bill creates a concern that there are not enough quality residents available to complete the work. The influx of dollars into the West Virginia economy will require additional residents to be employed. With the status of unemployment in West Virginia, this is seen as a major concern for contractors within the state.

In conclusion, the impact that this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 will have on the state of West Virginia is significant and beneficial to the residents of this state. As a contractor and employee in West Virginia, it is an exciting time to be in the construction industry. This bill is slated to bring roughly \$3 billion to repair and expand our network of roads and highways, nearly \$200 million for Corridor H, and an additional \$475 million to upgrade, repair, and replace the old pipes, sewer systems, and drinking water systems in West Virginia. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue growth and employment for the next decade due to the influx of dollars into our economy. ▽

