



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

January 12, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

JAMES T. CALLAHAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) supports H.R. 161, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, legislation designed to expedite the environmental review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of natural-gas pipelines. We respectfully request that you support this legislation when it comes to the floor of the House of Representatives.

The International Union of Operating Engineers represents almost 400,000 working men and women in the United States and Canada, thousands of whom build the nation's pipeline infrastructure. The International Union of Operating Engineers is one of four unions that are signatory to the National Pipeline Agreement.

The growth in the American natural-gas industry has been partially responsible for the record-setting employment in the oil and gas pipeline segment of the construction sector. In the summer of 2014, the number of jobs in that segment of the construction industry reached an all-time high. This industry is central to work opportunities for members of the IUOE.

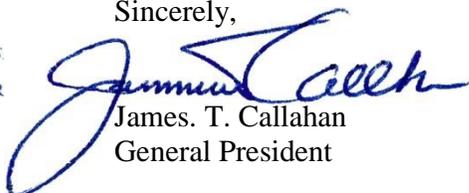
Regulatory uncertainty and procedural delay during environmental reviews have hindered the growth of jobs related to the natural-gas industry. The country is at an important crossroads in energy policy. The IUOE believes that Congress should establish sound policies to guide domestic natural-gas development in order to maximize the economic opportunities from this clean-burning fossil fuel. Opportunities associated with the build-out of this American energy infrastructure will not last forever – the next decade is critical – and Congress should move quickly.

H.R. 161 will help streamline the process to permit natural gas pipelines. Testimony from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the Energy and Commerce Committee recognizes that this legislation is both achievable and valuable, bringing more accountability to the process of permitting FERC-regulated pipelines. Enactment of H.R. 161 is one simple, straightforward step to help place the booming natural gas sector on a sound footing for the future.

The International Union of Operating Engineers respectfully seeks your support for H.R. 161, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James T. Callahan
General President

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GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

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