



LIUNA!

December 2, 2015

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Representative Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 500,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I would like to express our support for HR 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

This legislation seeks to update energy policies that are rooted in an era of energy scarcity and no longer reflect the abundance of domestic energy sources. If enacted, the bill will help modernize and protect our energy infrastructure while streamlining the siting and permitting process, making our energy networks more resilient, reducing U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy, and creating jobs.

We also commend the inclusion of two bills passed by the Committee on Natural Resources, HR 2295 and HR 2358. These provisions will designate national energy security corridors on federal lands, and authorize operation and maintenance on federal lands containing electric transmission and distribution facilities.

LIUNA also supports the amendment that is expected to be offered by Representative Barton that will lift the outdated policy which prohibits the export of domestic crude. The fact is that jobs are being lost and investments are being reduced (or redirected overseas) because American producers are prevented from exporting American crude oil. Major employment opportunities exist for American oil and gas workers in lifting the decades-old ban, and we believe that it is time to update and modernize the country's approach to the new realities of global energy supply and transportation. In short, we could provide our allies and trading partners with an alternative to sourcing energy from unfriendly and unstable producers simply by lifting this obsolete forty-year-old ban.

Feel the Power

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As you know, analysis at the Energy Information Administration (EIA) tells us that allowing exports of domestic crude will actually put downward pressure on petroleum product prices for American consumers, including prices at the gas pump for your constituents. EIA determined that crude oil prices are dictated by international benchmarks, not by the discounted North American benchmarks for crude, and that by adding supplies to international markets, American exports would likely reduce prices.

With public investments into infrastructure continuing to dwindle, the private sector is eager to invest in new projects to put people to work. However, there is simply too much government red tape slowing down the siting and permitting process. It is time for the Federal Government to stop being an impediment to job creation. Every American has an interest in seeing our reliance on foreign energy sources, often unfriendly or hostile regimes, come to an end.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "S".

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

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cc: U.S. House of Representatives