



International Union of Operating Engineers

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

December 2, 2015

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
1233 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 Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

The International Union of Operating Engineers respectfully requests your support for H.R. 8, North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015. The legislation should advance through the House of Representatives and eventually act as the vehicle for a much-needed national compromise on energy legislation. An update of the federal code on energy in light of the new reality of domestic production is long overdue, and, as you know, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has passed comprehensive, bipartisan energy legislation that simply awaits floor time in the Senate, which is likely in the first quarter of 2016.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) represents roughly 400,000 workers in the United States and Canada, tens of thousands of whom are building North America's energy infrastructure every day. The IUOE is one of this country's largest construction unions. We represent heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and other occupations in the sector, and building energy infrastructure, whether pipelines or power plants, is the bread and butter of the skilled, proud members of the Operating Engineers union. The International Union of Operating Engineers is one of four unions that are signatory to the National Pipeline Agreement.

The growth in the American domestic oil and gas industry has fueled the employment of Operating Engineers, whether mining silica sand in the Upper Mississippi Basin, erecting drilling equipment in the Utica and Marcellus plays, or building the nation's pipeline infrastructure across the country. The new American energy reality is responsible for the record-setting employment in the oil and gas pipeline segment of the construction sector that was achieved last summer. In June 2014, the number of jobs in that segment of the construction industry reached an all-time high in the United States. Members of the Operating Engineers employed in the segment of the industry command family-sustaining wage and benefit packages, oftentimes reaching over \$30 an hour – not including fringe benefits and contributions to training. Together with the Pipe Line Contractors Association, we make multi-million dollar investments in training the future workforce of the industry. It is absolutely critical to members of the Operating Engineers that we update the federal code and maximize employment in the energy industry.

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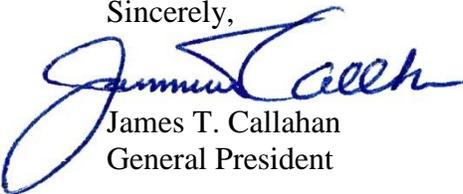


Regulatory uncertainty and procedural delay during environmental reviews have hindered the growth of jobs related to the domestic oil and gas industry. We need Congress to catch up with the new domestic oil and gas situation. We need you to move quickly to update the federal code to reflect the new realities. Congress should establish sound policies to guide domestic development in order to maximize the economic opportunities from America's abundant natural resources. The inclusion of key provisions in the bill related to the pipeline industry – particularly related to permitting of natural-gas pipelines on federal lands – will address the problem and help streamline the process to permit this vital infrastructure. Further, adopting Congressman Gene Green's amendment related to cross-border projects is an important step.

The policy changes contained in H.R. 8 represent a necessary update to the federal law to reflect the new reality of domestic production. Enactment of H.R. 8 is only one important step to help set the booming domestic energy sector on a sound footing for the future, which is why the International Union of Operating Engineers respectfully seeks your support for the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James T. Callahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

James T. Callahan
General President