



International Union of Operating Engineers

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

June 24, 2014

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. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, legislation that provides clear congressional authority to the process of evaluating cross-border energy projects. We respectfully request that you support this legislation when it comes to the floor of the House of Representatives this week.

The International Union of Operating Engineers represents 400,000 working men and women in the United States and Canada, thousands of whom build and maintain the nation's energy infrastructure. We are one of four unions that are signatory to the National Pipeline Agreement. Last year alone, Operating Engineers performed nearly 14-million hours of work on pipeline projects around the United States; millions of additional hours were performed on pipeline work throughout Canada by IUOE members.

North America's energy network is inextricably linked. Eliminating legal and regulatory uncertainty regarding the permitting of cross-border energy facilities, will promote investment and job creation in North America. Removing these barriers will ultimately increase the interconnection of the North American energy network and at the same time improve reliability, security, and environmental integrity.

Today, the process for permitting this energy infrastructure lives only through Executive Order. North America's energy future is simply too important to leave to the ambiguity and imprecision of administrative fiat. Establishing clear authority and delegating responsibility to natural-resource agencies of the federal government, rather than the Department of State, will increase the competency and capacity of the national review of cross-border energy projects.

Growth in North American domestic energy production has provided good paying jobs for members of the IUOE and other construction craftworkers and continues to be a major employer of our members. Job growth in the sector has been especially important as the industry weathered the brutal storm of the Great Recession, where the unemployment rate in construction soared over 27% in February 2010. Employment in the oil and gas pipeline construction industry group hit an all-time high in the United States in the most recent monthly data available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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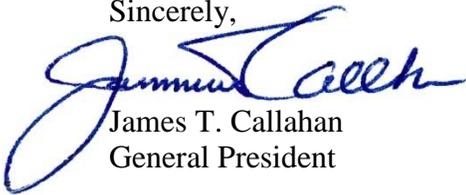
GENERAL COUNSEL
BRIAN POWERS



Regulatory uncertainty and procedural delay during environmental reviews have hindered the growth of jobs related to the continent's energy infrastructure. Congress should establish consistent, predictable policy framework to guide energy development across the borders. H.R. 3301 will provide clear guidance for the environmental review of future pipeline and transmission projects. Enactment of H.R. 3301 is one important but necessary step to help place the booming energy sector on a sound footing for the future.

The International Union of Operating Engineers supports H.R. 3301, and respectfully requests that you support the legislation this week when it comes before you. 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