



International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL 18 AND ITS BRANCHES • SERVING OHIO

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Office of
District No. 3

June 25, 2018

Honorable Members of the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Minority Member Lepore-Hagan,

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 18 would like to take this time to inform the committee members of our opposition to HB 551 - Minor Workers in the manufacturing and construction industry.

First, we are only concerned with the construction portion of the bill. We do not have a position on the manufacturing portion of the bill.

The construction of Ohio's buildings, bridges, roads and interstates along with industrial projects, etc. is no place for a 16 or 17 year old with a 10-hour safety course to be introduced to our trades.

I cannot imagine a person of this age on any of our highway construction sites with heavy equipment everywhere and traffic buzzing by at 70 miles an hour or on a busy building site with cranes lifting loads overhead along with heavy equipment and trucks all moving simultaneously on the site.

Our first year apprentices have over 130 hours of controlled training and safety instruction before they see the first job site. Once on a project, the ratio of journey person to apprentice is three to one (3 to 1) to make sure they are learning the trade in the safest, most efficient manner in as much of a controlled environment as possible.

If we are truly looking for ways to introduce people to the Construction Industry then it must be done in a controlled safe environment, such as on one of the many training centers the organized construction trades could provide.

Local 18 alone has four (4) state-of-the-art training facilities with approximately 1,000 acres of land. Each site has an indoor training facility for training in inclement weather to learn how to operate heavy equipment safely and efficiently.

We understand we are all looking for new ways to introduce young people into our various industries. This can be accomplished in many safe ways. One example of how our contractors do this is by setting up days with high schools that have kids who are interested in the various construction trades. The contractors, along with our staff from the various trades training staff, then accompany these kids to a construction site in a controlled setting and show them the various types of work on those sites to see what trade they might be interested in. After a day on a construction site, they then return to a contractor's shop or one of our union halls to discuss the pros and cons of the construction industry with our contractor representatives and the various apprenticeship trades instructors to decide if the construction industry may be what they want as a professional career.

Anyone that understands our industry knows that placing personnel without any proven job skills or training into the Heavy and Highway and Building Industries is a recipe for disaster!

The Ohio Operating Engineers welcome new ideas to get young people into the construction industry in a safe manner for everyone involved.

I would respectfully ask the committee members to remove the construction portion of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Totman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mark A. Totman
Legislative Representative