



**District 1 – Sub-district 1**  
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Kenneth Frankforther  
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Justin Donley, Instrumentation Technician  
PBF, Toledo Refining Company

Testimony before the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Toledo Refining Company and United Steelworkers Local 912.

My name is Justin Donley, and I am a 20+ year Instrumentation Technician in PBF's Toledo Refinery and the Local President of the United Steelworkers Local 912. USW Local 912 is a local in Toledo representing the more than 317 Steelworker members who safely operate and maintain the Refinery.

Safety is the highest priority for PBF and Steelworker refinery Employees across Ohio. To prioritize safety, the Employees of the Refinery must be constantly aware of the dangers that are all around us. Our Joint Health and Safety Committee between the Steelworkers and PBF is crucial to the constantly evolving demands that safety in a refinery involves. Our safety culture and the OSHA PSM standards which contains requirements for the management of processes using highly hazardous chemicals, combine to bring the level of awareness to operate a refinery such as ours.

As an Instrumentation Technician, I am responsible for troubleshooting and repairing refining equipment and units. More specifically, I am also our refinery's Safety Instrumented Systems Program Coordinator. In that role I participate in the design of new systems that are installed throughout the refinery to ensure that equipment stays within safe operating limits and automatically shut equipment down to a safe state before it reaches unsafe conditions. After those systems are installed I am then in charge of maintaining them by writing procedures detailing their functionality and how to work on them and regularly testing that functionality in accordance with those procedures to ensure that the safety systems will work properly when called upon.

Regarding the type of training that we undergo, before serving as an Instrumentation Technician, before starting in the refinery I went to college for industrial Electricity, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

covering many general topics including Instrumentation and Process Controls. That schooling taught me the science and theory behind instrumentation in an industrial facility. Since being employed in the refinery, we constantly do training for folks in my department as well as all of our maintenance departments. We receive hundreds of hours of training each year covering safety and environmental practices in the refinery. Each of us receives multiple weeks of training annually, specific to our maintenance disciplines, as new technology is introduced or new best practices are identified. We also make sure that each of our maintenance workers meet or exceed a minimum standard of knowledge and proficiency in their craft using nationally and industry recognized standards. The USW, in every facility we operate, insists that continuous training be a priority for our operators, maintenance crafts, technicians, and other employees. We advocate for specialized training to ensure every USW member has the skills and knowledge to perform their jobs and crafts safely and provide for reliable operations of refining equipment.

The United Steelworkers and my Local union have always stood for what is best for our refinery and the workers employed there which include many workers from the Building Trades. In fact, when legislation was pushed to shutdown Enbridge Line 5 which would permanently shutdown our refinery, we led the charge to save our refinery. I, along with many from my membership put in countless hours meeting with House and Senate Members in Ohio, Michigan, and at the Federal Level, meeting with Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and Attorney Generals for both Ohio and Michigan, as well as testifying in front of multiple committees as we partnered with the Ohio and Michigan Legislature to pass resolutions to support and protect these great, family and community sustaining jobs for our members as well as members of the Building Trades.

House Bill 205 would not help refiners accomplish these goals because it mandates one type of training program for maintenance and construction in our refinery. These training programs are modeled after building trade apprenticeship programs and do not accommodate the specialized in-house training programs that many craftsmen and craftswomen receive. Although the USW training programs are different, they provide for a skilled workforce. In our Toledo facility, we have 99 total maintenance workers with over 1100 combined years of experience and 18 of those have previous experience as operators totaling over 240 years which provides priceless understanding of the operation.

Our Steelworker maintenance force is highly skilled and reliable, they understand the process within the refinery and our safety processes better than anyone that performs maintenance on our facilities. Within House Bill 205, "construction is defined as all service performed at a stationary source, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE. Replacing my refineries proprietary maintenance workforce with many years of maintenance experience and several years of operating experience within the PBF's Toledo Refinery does not make us safer. It does just the opposite. For these reasons, the USW stands in opposition to this anti-safety and anti-Steelworker legislation

I urge the Committee to listen to the Steelworkers who operate our refineries and oppose this legislation.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of my members.