



LOCAL 18

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Honorable Dick Stein
Ohio House Commerce & Labor Committee
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan & Members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee:

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18 is made up of over 15,000 professional men and women who operate heavy equipment in all aspects of construction here in Ohio. In 1939 our International Union amalgamated six (6) operating engineers locals in Ohio into one operating engineer local, which became Local 18. The reason for this was to allow our members and our contractors to mobilize to any part of our jurisdiction to supply Ohio's Heavy Highway and Building Industries with skilled, professional, and safe heavy equipment operators. Our jurisdiction covers eighty-five (85) counties in Ohio and four (4) northern counties in Kentucky.

In total, Local 18 invests over \$12 million per year to give Operating Engineers the skills they need to build Ohio. In partnership with the Ohio Contractor's Association and the Ohio Building Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, we provide state-of-the-art training in four (4) all-weather training centers in Logan, Richfield, Cygnet, and Miamisburg, Ohio. Our members log more than 200,000 training hours in nearly 50 courses per year.

We believe it is an industry responsibility to train the next generation of Ohio's construction workforce. Our apprentices in our four-year program must log at least 160 hours per year at the training site and complete 4,000 hours of on-the-job training per year. Additionally, apprentices must demonstrate proficiency on one machine per year in each program year. Safety is paramount in all of our training applications.

Accordingly, Local 18 would like to support the passage of HB 235, the High Hazard Training Certification Act.

HB 235 emphasizes the need for (i) state or DOL approved apprenticeship training and (ii) OSHA safety and health hazard recognition and prevention for external, contracted-for construction workers. It is important to reiterate that HB 235 does not apply to the refinery's full-time employees. Instead, HB 235 is narrowly drafted to apply only to external construction.

Workers brought on-site for short durations to complete shut-downs, turnarounds, and maintenance projects.

By requiring minimal industry standards for construction workers at high-hazard construction sites, the state of Ohio is helping to ensure the safety of the external construction workforce, the full-time employees of the refineries, and the communities that support these facilities.

Additionally, HB 235's training and safety standards will help prevent the importation of unskilled cheap labor for Ohio's most dangerous construction job sites. It is well-documented that, particularly for construction, a lack of training leads directly to higher human error rates. As Scott Hayes from PBF Energy testified, oil refineries are not the place to cut corners on safety.

Accordingly, I urge the House Commerce and Labor Committee to report HB 235 favorably. Thank you for your careful consideration of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bertolone
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