



# International Union Of Operating Engineers

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

**JAMES MURPHY**

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Thursday, November 7, 2013

The Honourable Thomas Mulcair, P.C., M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Mulcair,

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and our nearly 50,000 union members, I am writing to express our disappointment and our opposition to the New Democrat Party's Opposition Day motion "that in the opinion of the House, the Keystone XL pipeline would intensify the export of unprocessed raw bitumen and would export more than 40,000 well-paying Canadian jobs, and is therefore not in Canada's best interest."

Let us be clear, there are two distinct and separate issues at play in this motion: Keystone XL and the exporting "of unprocessed raw bitumen" in Canada. Regarding the exporting of bitumen, the blame must rest with current and past Federal and provincial governments which have failed to develop a proper national energy strategy. Canada currently does not have the refining capacity nor will it have the refining capacity for decades to come to deal with the amounts of raw bitumen that are being developed in Canada's oil sands. If there was a plan currently in place to build a refinery and have it operational over the next few years, the IUOE would be the first ones to support such a plan but there is not. The refining of bitumen in Canada right now is a non-issue; it cannot happen. Therefore the product must be exported.

We support Keystone XL because Canada must look at expanding and diversifying our markets. Keystone XL is only one of several options being developed in Canada, there are also discussions around the Northern Gateway Project and the development of Energy East Pipeline Project - the IUOE also supports the development of these projects. But currently Keystone XL is the most advanced and is ready to be built. Keystone XL will allow Canadian Oil companies to expand the reach of their product which will only benefit Canada's economy.

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As well, Keystone XL will create the kind of high-paying, skilled jobs that are so vital to our economy. Operating Engineers are among the most highly trained and skilled pipeline workers in the world. Our expertise will ensure that Keystone is built right, built safe and built to last. This project will actually provide thousands of skilled unionized construction jobs— jobs that feed families, pay mortgages, and send kids to university.

If your party really wants to have a serious discussion on the refining of raw bitumen in Canada, then this motion must be redrafted. Otherwise, this motion carries no weight or credibility and should be defeated. Otherwise the New Democratic Party will not only offend our union and our members but the nearly half million unionized construction workers in Canada who support this project and other pipeline projects.

Fraternally,

#### **INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Murphy  
Canadian Regional Director

JM/nb

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) is a progressive, diversified trade union that primarily represents operating engineers, who work as heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and surveyors in the construction industry, and stationary engineers, who work in operations and maintenance in building and industrial complexes, as well as a number of job classifications in the petrochemical industry.