



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS

Joseph Maloney, M.S.C., International Vice President

boilermaker.ca

May 4, 2017

To all Members of the House of Commons,

I write as the Canadian leader of a union representing a strategic industrial occupation, to ask for your help in defending the jobs of your constituents who work in the industrial construction and maintenance industry. More than a million Canadians work at building, maintaining and operating complex, large-scale heavy industrial installations like power plants, refineries and resource-extraction facilities, pipelines, offshore platforms, mines, shipyards, cement plants and others.

Our union is concerned that many thousands of these jobs are at risk because of recent developments in international trade. The Comprehensive Economics and Trade Agreement (CETA) will allow European companies to import entire workforces should they win a bid to construct or maintain these facilities. Media reports on the prospective trade negotiations with China say China wants the same privileges for its companies.

While we are not afraid of competition and believe Canadian skilled-trade standards are the world's best, the playing field is hardly level between Canada and Europe where workers are concerned. The EU countries with which Canadian workers will compete have average wages of less than half of their Canadian counterparts. The disparity is the same between Canadian and Chinese workers.

CETA's Joint Interpretive Instrument and the full text of the agreement make provisions for maintaining each country's labour standards and contain a laudable commitment from Canada to ratify the Fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization. Unfortunately, these measures are of no assistance in protecting Canadian workers from the wholesale importation of foreign workforces when new developments are considered, or when existing facilities need to be shut down for regular maintenance.

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However, CETA does leave the door open for both federal and provincial governments to make regulations that “regulate economic activity in the public interest.” It is for this reason that we have today written to the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet to request that the federal government take measures to protect Canadian workers against the wholesale importation of entire foreign workforces.

These measures — or the lack of them — will affect workers in practically every electoral district in Canada. They represent billions of dollars in earnings for Canadians.

Given the importance of this issue, we would hope to meet with you at your constituency office, where Boilermakers and other tradespeople from your region could discuss the possibilities of protecting Canadian jobs at further length.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Maloney', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joseph Maloney, MSC
International Vice-President for Canada