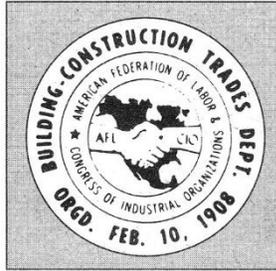


RHODE ISLAND



BUILDING TRADES

August 15, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
c/o [John Barrasso@barrasso.senate.gov](mailto:John_Barrasso@barrasso.senate.gov)
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
[Tom Caper@caper.senate.gov](mailto:Tom_Caper@caper.senate.gov)
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council represents seventeen (17) unions and approximately 9,500 members in and around the Rhode Island area. On behalf of our organization I am writing to you regarding to support proposed reforms to the Clean Water Act.

Currently, states are using existing provisions of the CWA to deny pipeline permits for projects that already have approval by FERC. This abuse has and is resulting in the loss of hundreds of construction jobs for existing projects. This situation is adversely affecting our economy, the construction industry, and our members in particular. Moreover, it is driving up energy costs that is resulting in citizens not being able to afford to pay their energy bills as well as stifling new economic development.

The proposed reforms do not diminish existing environmental standards in anyway; rather it clarifies the intent and scope of existing law and insulates the process from being politicized.

The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable Tom Carper
August 15, 2018
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Accordingly, on behalf of our council I am writing to you to support these efforts. Thank you for your time and attention to this correspondence. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/Michael F. Sabitoni
Michael F. Sabitoni
President

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