



International Union of Operating Engineers

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

November 7, 2020

JAMES T. CALLAHAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

American democracy can be messy, but now that the 2020 presidential election has culminated in a clear winner being declared, I would like to take this opportunity to address each and every Operating Engineer household in the hope that a new period of national healing may now commence.

It is my desire that each and every member of this great organization continue to prosper and grow in the American middle-class. I believe that our common goals for a safe and productive career outweigh any and all allegiance to political party. No matter where we live, our commonality as Operating Engineers is the bond that unites us; it is stronger than any issue that divides us.

Throughout our history, IUOE members have never wavered when this great nation has been called to higher purpose. Through every war dating back to our founding 125 years ago, Operating Engineers have served and sacrificed on the battlefield. We have been an integral part of the industrial supply chain in factories and shipyards, producing tanks, armaments, aircraft and warships to stamp out tyranny around the world.

Operating Engineers are the brave souls who run towards the natural and man-made disasters that threaten our country and our communities. We serve on the frontlines, restoring order and calm, caring for the sick and injured, then building back better and stronger. Our Stationary brothers and sisters carry on by keeping newly restored structures safe and operational. Our work has been recognized as “essential” by state and local authorities during the pandemic.

I have stood in amazement and pride to watch the generosity of our members, as you donate your time, expertise and funding in your communities and to those less fortunate. Millions of people who have benefited from this generosity will never know your name or the career you have chosen, but credit is never sought by those who live by the credo, “There but for the grace of God, go I.”

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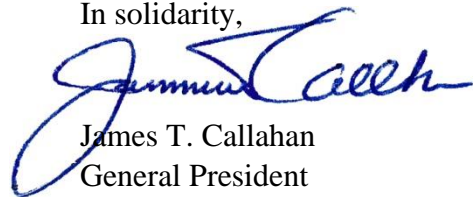
MATTHEW G. MCGUIRE

It is for these reasons that I do not view the members of this amazing union through the lens of political affiliation. I see clearly what makes us great. We are members of the highest skilled workforce in North America.

Therefore, let our message to every elected official of every political stripe be very clear. We are united in protecting the tenets of our great organization—our right to organize, our right to picket unfair practices, and our right to collectively bargain. We demand access to affordable healthcare for us and our families. Lastly, we have a reasonable expectation to retire with dignity through our union pension. On these issues, nothing can divide the hardworking men and women of the Operating Engineers.

In closing, I respectfully remind us all that regardless of whether we identify as Republicans or Democrats, we all read in one way or another from the same bible. We hope and pray for our loved ones, we wish to build a better America for our children, we fear for the health of our families during this pandemic, and we strive for a better tomorrow. I have faith that we will come through this period of history more determined and more united than ever before. May God bless the Operating Engineers.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James T. Callahan", with a large, stylized initial "J" and "C".

James T. Callahan
General President

JTC:jl