



**INTERNATIONAL
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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
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November 19, 2015

Re: Oppose H.R. 702 or Any Legislation Lifting the Crude Oil Export Ban

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I urge you to oppose H.R. 702, legislation which would lift the long-standing ban on American crude oil exports. As a valuable natural resource, crude oil is a value-added commodity, but only as long as Congress insists the product be refined before export. Lifting the crude oil export ban will threaten the economic engine of this value-added commodity by sending U.S. refining jobs overseas and potentially raising gasoline prices for consumers.

Each year IBEW construction electricians and apprentices, who earn solid middle-class wages and benefits, work millions of labor hours in American oil refineries. Lifting the crude oil export ban would place many of those hours at risk as oil producers would no longer be required to refine crude oil before export.

Rather than permitting the unregulated export of this valuable commodity, the current surge in oil production should be used as an opportunity to fuel U.S. refinery investment. Such a build-out would create many good-paying construction and refinery jobs. IBEW construction local unions stand ready to supply as many trained and highly-skilled electricians as necessary to help increase refinery capacity.

Exporting American crude oil will result in unnecessary job loss in the oil refinery sector and may lead to higher gasoline prices for consumers as well. I urge you to vote no on H.R. 702 or any legislation lifting the ban on crude oil exports.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

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