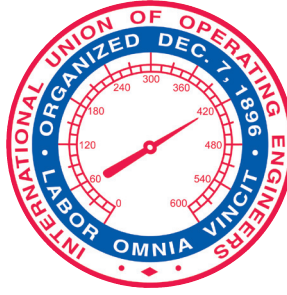


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 19, 2023**



## **Carpenters and Operating Engineers Unions Oppose Legislation That Eliminates Thousands of Jobs**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – *The following statement was issued today by James T. Callahan, General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers, and Douglas J. McCarron, General President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, regarding their unions' opposition to legislation that will eliminate thousands of American jobs:*

Last year, the Department of Commerce opened a circumvention inquiry, alleging that four Southeast Asian countries were circumventing tariffs and duties on solar cells and modules from the People's Republic of China. The inquiry generated massive uncertainty in the domestic solar market by suggesting possible retroactive tariffs as high as 250 percent. This threat resulted in a drop of 20 percent fewer solar construction and installation jobs across the United States.

President Biden took action to preserve these jobs, issuing Emergency Proclamation 10414 to prevent tariffs on any solar module and cell imports from the four countries until June 2024. House Joint Resolution 39 will repeal the President's Proclamation and eliminate thousands of jobs in the American solar industry.

"Repealing President Biden's Proclamation will result in retroactive duties and tariffs that would jeopardize 30,000 construction and 4,000 manufacturing jobs," said James T. Callahan, General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers. "We are not prepared to stand by and let some partisan dispute eliminate Operating Engineers' jobs and slow the deployment of clean energy."

"The President's Biden's Proclamation saves Carpenters' jobs and smooths the development of the domestic solar manufacturing industry. Today, we're seeing the American manufacturing sector respond to incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act and develop homegrown solar modules," said Carpenters Union General President Douglas J. McCarron. "Now is not the time to disrupt the solar industry and layoff thousands of union workers just as we're getting a foothold in the burgeoning solar business."

The International Union of Operating Engineers and United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners urge Congress and members of the Ways and Means Committee to vote against House Joint Resolution 39, which will repeal the administration's Proclamation and eliminate thousands of union jobs, slow the deployment of renewable energy, and generate unnecessary greenhouse gases.

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*The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) together represent 900,000 working women and men across North America in a range of industry sectors and are two of the continent's largest construction unions.*