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# BUILDING TRADES BULLETIN

February 25, 2015

## Building Trades Policy on Steelworkers Strike

Please see the attached joint statement between President Sean McGarvey of the Building Trades Department and Leo Gerard of the United Steelworkers (USW).

As the Building Trades of California are well aware, the Steelworkers have been on a ten-year campaign to add to their membership by raiding the jurisdiction and work of the Building Trades, by signing low-wage non-union construction contractors. This has been occurring not only in California, but throughout the western states. They often use an unskilled, out-of-state workforce, undermining our wages while abusing desperate workers from right-to-work states by colluding with anti-organized labor contractors such as Petrochem, Timex, Brinderson, Total Western, and Jacobs, thereby entrapping these workers in a low-wage cycle of poverty.

With the attached agreement between the Building Trades and the USW, we can expect that the USW will reappear before central labor councils, seeking sanctions of support for their strike against the refinery industry. We will support these sanctions if the following language is included in the resolution:

**“The USW commits that USW will not seek to interfere with the jurisdiction of Building and Construction Trades unions in California, that USW will dissolve its relationship with contractors that do not pay the state prevailing wage rate as posted by the Department of Industrial Relations as of January 1, 2015, to Building and Construction Trades workers in the state of California, and that USW will not seek approval of apprenticeship programs to operate in the Building and Construction Trades in California.”**



*Value on Display. Every Day.*

February 25, 2015

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Joint Statement from Leo Gerard, President, United Steelworkers of America (USW) and Sean McGarvey, President, North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU)**

ATLANTA, GA -- There has been much confusion concerning the United Steelworkers of America's (USW) negotiations with the refinery industry regarding the scope of its work.

We are issuing this statement to make clear that the scope of work USW is seeking in negotiations with the refinery owners does not and will not include the following: new construction; turnaround or shut down work (not currently performed by in-house USW members); and specialty work that requires specialty equipment.

In addition, the USW does not and will not seek to bar the subcontracting of such work to contractors whose employees are represented by North America's Building Trades Unions. The daily maintenance and repair work covered by the existing scope or recognition clauses contained in USW agreements with refinery owners and performed by the refinery owners' workforce is the work of the USW and is the only work the USW is trying to defend in the current negotiations with the refinery owners.

Furthermore, USW officials acknowledge the safety qualifications of NABTU contractors and acknowledges that those contractors that employ and are signatory with North America's Building Trades Unions, utilize the best trained, most skilled and safest craft workers in the world.

The USW recognizes that the five contractors represented by the California Refinery Contractors Association undermine the standards of the USW and the Building Trades in the industry. The USW is committed to resolving this issue once and for all including, if necessary, the expulsion of the USW Local Unions that represent the workers of such contractors.

Meanwhile, for the duration of the USW strike, NABTU unions and their members shall respect the USW picket lines and refrain from performing struck work, with the understanding that rebuilding and/or new construction by NABTU union members shall be permitted and USW will assist the NABTU in facilitating such work.

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#### **ABOUT NORTH AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS**

North America's Building Trades Unions is an alliance of 14 national and international unions in the building and construction industry that collectively represent over 3 million skilled craft professionals in the United States and Canada. Each year, our unions and our signatory contractor partners invest over \$1 billion in private sector money to fund and operate over 1,900 apprenticeship training and education facilities across North America that produce the safest, most highly trained and productive skilled craft workers found anywhere in the world.

[www.BCTD.org](http://www.BCTD.org)

[www.facebook.com/NorthAmericasBuildingTradesUnions](https://www.facebook.com/NorthAmericasBuildingTradesUnions)

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#### **ABOUT THE UNITED STEELWORKERS**

The USW represents 850,000 workers in North America employed in industries that include metals, rubber, chemicals, paper, oil refining, plus the service and public sectors. For more information: <http://www.usw.org/>.