



# LIUNA!

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February 14, 2019

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the half-million members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I am writing to convey our concern and abhorrence of the Fossil Fuel Money Pledge that some Members of Congress, Senators, and even Governors are signing.

For LIUNA members, voluntary political contributions represent the sacrifice of hard-earned dollars in order to strengthen their ability to be heard in government and politics. Contributions from LIUNA's PAC should not be seen as just another check. Every \$5,000 contribution represents 100,000 hours of doing the hard, dirty and sometimes dangerous work of building our country.

Over thirty (30) percent of our PAC contributions come from our members working in the oil, natural gas, and nuclear industries. These sectors have been a lifeline and a pathway to a blue collar middle-class way of life. This industry has allowed LIUNA to be a significant voice in the last several election cycles. Labeling fossil fuels and those who produce it as tainted is a slap in the face of our members and is in effect an attempt to silence their voices and take food off their tables.

Furthermore, adoption of this pledge is irrational, ignores science and will do nothing to address climate change. Natural gas and nuclear power are accepted as the most realistic paths to a low or no carbon energy future by a broad array of experts and progressives. Also, it is important to note that many of the firms targeted by your pledge are often the same firms that are moving to provide the very fuel sources being touted by those signing the pledges, such as wind and solar.

While rejecting all corporate money in politics may be a laudable goal, singling out the fossil fuel sector appears to be purely political rhetoric at our expense. We do not see similar moves, for example, to single out the resources of weapons manufacturers or corporations that produce opioids or to demonize their employees.

*Feel the Power*

Fossil Fuel Money Pledge  
February 14, 2019  
Page 2

Coming elections promise to be among the most consequential and costly in our nation's recent history. In that context and in the interests of our members, we must let it be known that attempting to alienate industries where our members work and where political action dollars are earned indicates that some of those we have considered friends and allies are not interested in our resources nor our member's livelihoods. We will remain vigilant and will not forget who signs such pledges.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Terry O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TERRY O'SULLIVAN  
General President

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cc: LIUNA General Executive Board and Local Union Business Managers in the  
United States