



April 5, 2021

Chair Rob Ecklund
Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Policy and Finance Committee
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Ecklund:

On behalf of the 70,000 Minnesota union construction professionals, I want to thank you for including the "Use of Skilled and Trained Contractor Workforces at Oil Refineries" legislation in the House Labor and Industry Omnibus Bill. By requiring that refinery employees be "skilled and trained" in Registered Apprenticeship programs will ensure that refineries are being built and maintained by the most highly skilled, safe, and experienced workers in the state.

As you know, Registered Apprenticeship is a formal system of on-the-job training with related technical instruction that develops trades people over 2-5 years, depending on the trade. Graduates of Registered Apprenticeship programs are fully competent in all aspects of a trade, including knowledge, skills and safety on the job.

Thank you again for your legislation ensuring that only the mostly highly trained and skilled workers build and maintain oil refineries in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Melander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Harry Melander
President