

COLUMBIANA – MAHONING – TRUMBULL COUNTIES IN OHIO

*Western Reserve Building
and Construction Trades Council*



291 McClurg Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Phone: (330) 758-8160

Fax: (330) 758-5562



June 9, 2008

The Honorable Ted Strickland
77 S. High Street
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Re: Baard Energy Project/Wellsville, Ohio

Dear Governor Strickland:

We know that America needs to break its growing dependence on foreign oil. Fundamental principles such as national security, energy stability and independence dictate that America must address its energy crisis. If we fail to act appropriately, we risk creating a future marked by increased energy insecurity and a future in which America's prosperity continues to deteriorate and remains captive to the whims of foreign energy cartels.

The signatories of this letter, representing 16 unions and thousands of workers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia are asking Congress and state officials to respond by implementing laws that will foster and commercialize an industry that utilizes our country's most abundant domestic resources using the latest developments in technology to produce transportation fuels that will be as clean or cleaner than the high risk imported fuel we are dependent on.

As of today, the current market price for a barrel of oil is around \$135. This is a \$70 increase from just last year. With no end in sight, at these prices the United States will spend more than \$350 billion every year for imported petroleum products. Worse, this \$350 billion payment is growing as oil demand in the United States and the rest of the world continues to grow. In less than 20 years, worldwide demand for petroleum products is expected to increase by 40 percent. Without decisive action by our elected officials, the price citizens of the United States pay for imported petroleum products will continue to increase.

We can break this dangerous dependence on foreign oil. We can do this because any product made from oil can be made from biomass and coal. The United States can replace millions of barrels of imported oil used for transportation fuels if we build commercial-

scale coal/biomass-to-liquids (CBTL) facilities like the Baard Energy project, Ohio River Clean Fuels, in Wellsville, Ohio. The technology is available now, and studies have shown that technology can produce a fuel with the same or less emissions than current petroleum products. Using this proven technology with advanced carbon capture and storage capabilities, domestic CBTL transportation fuels will be as clean, or even cleaner, than the conventional diesel and jet fuels they replace, by emitting less carbon dioxide while dramatically reducing regulated pollutants. These are the fuels used to build and move America: trucks, planes, ships, locomotives, and other heavy equipment.

Domestically produced CBTL fuels will provide our military with a secure source of fuel. The United States Air Force is already in the process of certifying their fleet to fly on a blend of alternative fuels such as those which will be produced by the Baard project by 2011. The U.S. Air Force would like to begin purchasing 400 million barrels of alternative fuel by 2016. Congress and our State governments must support this effort.

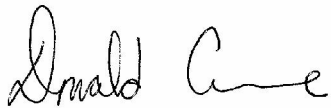
Baard Energy's CBTL plant in Ohio and others like it will create thousands of new construction jobs and reduce our burgeoning trade deficit. Right here in Ohio, up to 4,000 highly skilled construction workers, such as ironworkers, pipefitters, millwrights, and electricians, will be needed to build the CBTL plant. More than 400 full-time good wage jobs will be created to operate this facility. These numbers do not include the indirect or spin-off jobs. For example, one agency has calculated that the job creation will exceed 3:1 ratio with other high-paying employment for the citizens of Ohio and the neighboring area.

Our members can build this CBTL production facility which will produce more than 50,000 barrels of clean transportation fuel each day for far less than \$135 per barrel. The hurdle we face is that there has never been a commercial-scale CBTL production facility because of the fear of the potential manipulation of oil prices by foreign oil cartels.

Investors are eager to support CBTL plants and they understand how these plants will play a significant role in national security, energy stability and independence, but they require some assurance that their investment will be protected against price manipulation. To jumpstart a CBTL industry in the United States, Congress must pass laws that support this industry: laws that would permit the U.S. Department of Defense to enter into long-term contracts with developers; laws to support the U.S. Department of Energy loan guarantee program for CBTL; laws to allow for an alternative fuel tax credit.

The signatories ask that our State and Federal elected officials study the facts and take the much needed steps to support the commercialization of this new industry which will be built here in America and operated by American labor to help secure our nation. We should keep our energy dollars at home.

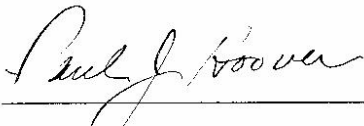
Sincerely,



Donald T. Crane
Millwright Local #1871
West Virginia



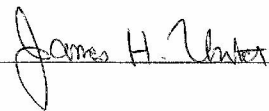
Wendell Dansler
Laborer's Local #935
Ohio



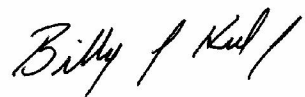
Paul J. Hoover
Operating Engineers Local #66
Pennsylvania



David E. Patton, Sr.
Sheet Metal Workers Local #33
West Virginia/Pennsylvania



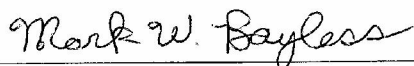
James H. Untch
OPCMIA Local #179
Pennsylvania



Billy Joe Keel, Jr.
Painters Local #476 DC-6
Pennsylvania



James D. Burgham
I.B.E.W. Local #64
Ohio



Mark W. Bayless
Carpenters Local #171
Ohio



Roland Taylor, Jr.
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #396
West Virginia



Michael J. Waldern
Teamster Local #377
Ohio



Michael R. Rapovy
Carpenters Local #171
Ohio



Dennis Hageman
Bricklayers Local #8, Ohio

Brian K. Wallace

Brian K. Wallace
Laborer's International Union Local #809
West Virginia

Thomas H. Warga

Thomas H. Warga
Laborers' Local #125
Ohio

Max Marcavish

Max Marcavish
Heat and Frost Insulators Local #84
Ohio

Mark A. Catello

Mark A. Catello
I.B.E.W. #573
Ohio