

Dear Honourable,

I am writing to you as a concerned Boilermaker in British Columbia regarding the growing challenges facing the industrial construction sector, particularly the impact on Union Boilermakers.

The industrial construction and maintenance industry in our province is facing significant headwinds. Union Boilermakers, whose expertise includes the fabrication, installation, maintenance, and repair of boilers, pressure vessels, and tanks in heavy industrial settings, have been especially hard hit. A major source of stable, long-term work for our trade has historically come from the province's pulp and paper mills. Unfortunately, we have already seen a number of these mills close, with indications that more closures may follow. These facilities provided essential ongoing maintenance, shutdown, and repair work that sustained hundreds of Boilermakers and other skilled tradespeople, including but not limited to Pipefitters, Millwrights, Ironworkers, and Electricians. The loss of this work has created real economic hardship for families and communities across British Columbia.

At the same time, the province and the country as a whole face a growing demand for reliable, dispatchable energy. Many of the closed or dilapidated pulp mill sites already contain significant infrastructure — including boiler systems, pressure vessels, piping, and heavy structural components — that could potentially be repurposed. I urge the provincial government to explore the feasibility of converting select closed or underutilized pulp mill sites into modern gas-fired or biomass-burning energy facilities. Such projects would generate much-needed electricity for both British Columbia and Canada while creating substantial construction, installation, and long-term maintenance opportunities for skilled trades. These conversions would leverage existing industrial footprints, reduce the need for entirely new greenfield developments, and provide a practical bridge toward energy security.

I acknowledge and appreciate the government's investments in skilled trades training and apprenticeship programs. These initiatives are vital for building the workforce our province needs. However, there is growing concern among workers that many individuals completing these programs will struggle to find meaningful employment upon graduation. Training without corresponding job opportunities risks creating frustration, wasted public resources, and a potential future shortage when major projects do arise. We must ensure that training pathways are matched with actual industrial and energy projects that can sustain these careers.

I respectfully request that your office examine these issues and consider a review of the economic and employment impact of recent and pending pulp mill closures on Boilermakers and related trades; an assessment of the potential to repurpose closed mill sites for gas or biomass energy production, including any required policy, regulatory, or incentive support; and coordination between training programs and long-term industrial/energy infrastructure planning to ensure that newly trained tradespeople have viable career paths in British Columbia.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and provide additional information from the perspective of workers on the ground. Our skilled trades are the backbone of major industrial projects, and with thoughtful action we can protect existing capabilities while building for the future energy needs of our province and country.

Sincerely,

Your Full Name

Your Position/Union Affiliation