

## Write a Letter to the Editor in Support of Refinery Safety

### Tips

- a) Pay attention to the newspaper's LTE guidelines. These can usually be found in the opinion section of the website and should include instructions for how to submit letters, the contact info they need from you (e.g. address and phone number) and their word limit. You can also read published letters to get a better understanding of the paper's preferred length and style.
- b) Stick to the word limit - often under 200 words.
- c) If there has been recent coverage of the unfair labor practice strike, reference it in the letter.
- d) Add something personal that shows your own values, emotions and connection to the issue.
- e) Keep the tone civil.
- f) Stay on message by highlighting health and safety issues. See the sample letters below.
- g) Strive to submit letters from a variety of perspectives that show the diversity of our membership and the breadth of our community support. Make sure each letter is different. Papers don't like receiving multiple copies of the same letter and often limit authors to one published letter per month.



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## Sample Letters

### From a Community Member

We support the hard-working members of USW Local [INSERT LOCAL UNION NUMBER] on an unfair labor practice strike at the refinery in [INSERT NAME OF COMMUNITY/REGION].

A single mistake at this facility could be devastating for our community, impacting families, businesses and schools many miles away. That's why it's so important that only trained, experienced workers be allowed to run the facility. Allowing managers to operate the refinery with far too few staff and inexperienced contractors puts our community at an unnecessary risk for a devastating accident.

It's time for the oil industry, including [NAME OF COMPANY], to negotiate fair contracts that will get highly skilled USW members back to work. Until then, [NAME OF COMPANY] should not be allowed to operate such a complex facility with an inexperienced and understaffed workforce. We're counting on our local leaders to stand up for our health and safety by demanding that the industry negotiate in good faith and by urging regulators to call on [NAME OF COMPANY] to cease operations at the refinery until the trusted USW workforce is back on the job.

### From a Union Member

I'm thankful and proud that my USW brothers and sisters are speaking out against the oil industry's strong-arm tactics while these obscenely profitable companies try to force workers to accept status quo on working conditions that are often deadly and always dangerous.

I'm also thankful that the USW is pursuing charges against these companies with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The bullies of big oil have resorted to breaking federal labor laws rather than negotiating in good faith toward a fair contract with the loyal, experienced and trained workers responsible for their shareholders' billions.

My most sincere hope is that the current unfair labor practice strike demonstrates for these employers and the public that workers united in solidarity for a single cause can accomplish anything – even making oil industry giants responsible to workers and the communities where they operate.

Like it or not, the issues being negotiated between the USW and oil industry representatives will impact all of us, and we should all be paying close attention to this dispute and its resolution. Join us in demanding fair contracts for USW oil workers now. Our lives and the lives of our friends, families and neighbors depend on it.