



## OPERATING ENGINEERS 324

Douglas W. Stockwell - Business Manager

June 9, 2024

Michigan House Economic Development and Small Business Committee  
c/o Chair Rep. Jason Hoskins  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

Subject: Support of House Bills 5768-5770:

Operating Engineers 324 strongly supports House Bills 5768-5770, which received a hearing last week before the Michigan House Economic Development and Small Business Committee. We urge you to vote YES on these important bills because they will create jobs, opportunities, and a better Michigan for generations to come.

For more than a century, Operating Engineers 324 has provided the safest, best trained, and most professional workforce to businesses throughout Michigan. Today, we represent 15,000 members across the state, including thousands working to develop and restore infrastructure projects. We accomplish that through investment in ourselves – in our world-class training facilities, in our recruitment, and in the life-long training and support we offer our members. We understand the value of self-investment, and the importance of being good partners. It is our partnerships, with our signatory contractors, with governmental entities, and with other trade organizations, that allow us the opportunity to earn the work we carry out so proudly.

We also know our success and growth are directly tied to our state's economic development approach and investments in infrastructure. When the state invests in itself in the way we invest in ourselves as an organization, every resident and business in Michigan – including our members – does better.

That is precisely why we support this bill package. It accomplishes that investment in a fiscally responsible manner. We cannot afford to “kick the can” any longer when we have the opportunity to make real investments in ourselves.

We also thank Rep. Jason Morgan and Rep. Mike McFall for crafting a long-term plan for Michigan that doesn't pit economic development incentives against funding our critical infrastructure. This legislation builds off Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's successful approach that has successfully attracted business and created thousands of new jobs and opportunities for Michigan workers. The package of bills will help us compete for the careers of today and tomorrow.

This is the legislation our members and Michigan needs, so on behalf of our 15,000 Members, I urge you to vote yes on this important package without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Douglas W. Stockwell'.

Douglas W. Stockwell  
Operating Engineers 324 Business Manager and General Vice-President