

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL UNION NO. 150, 150A, 150B, 150C, 150D, 150E, 150G, 150M, 150O, 150 R.A.

AFFILIATED WITH THE A.F.L.-C.I.O. AND BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LOCAL 150 LAUNCHES ANOTHER ONE-DAY “END THE BAN ON NATURAL GAS” CAMPAIGN IN THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES FEATURING AN EXCLUSIVE OP-ED AUTHORED BY 31 CHICAGO ALDERPEOPLE

*The Op-Ed Shares Two-Thirds of Chicago’s City Council Believes We Need to End the Ban on Natural Gas  
and Move Forward with a Real Plan to Decarbonize the City*

**COUNTRYSIDE, IL (May 5, 2024)** – The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, AFL-CIO, announced it is launching its second one-day “End the Ban on Natural Gas” Campaign through the Fight Back Fund, an effort comprised of tens of thousands of workers who are standing up for working families on Sunday, May 5, 2024. The campaign will share an exclusive Op-Ed authored by **31 Chicago Alderpeople** in the Chicago Sun-Times.

In January, Mayor Johnson introduced the Clean and Affordable Building Ordinance (CABO), which focuses on indoor emissions and would ultimately eliminate natural gas hookups in new construction and majorly renovated buildings. Since then, the opposition to CABO has continually grown. The effects of forcing the electrification of buildings and homes in Chicago would have long lasting ramifications. A thoughtful and deliberate plan to decarbonize the city needs careful consideration that ensures clean energy options remain affordable and reliable for its residents.

The “End the Ban on Natural Gas” Campaign will raise awareness that **two-thirds of Chicago’s City Council agrees – a ban on natural gas is not the way forward for Chicago**. By placing a double full-page advertisement and running a Newspaper Takeover with the Chicago Sun-Times, the campaign shares the exclusive Op-Ed authored by a majority of City Council. The full Op-Ed can be read on the [Fight Back Fund](#) website, as well. This Op-Ed shares the collective view of **31 Chicago Alderpeople** related to the serious and harmful impact CABO would have on reliability risks to decarbonization plans, compromising jobs, and hurting consumers.

Local 150 wants to be part of the plan for a greener future. However, there are real costs and risks associated with decarbonizing without a plan. A ban on natural gas connections would not only disrupt the current energy landscape, but it would also jeopardize jobs. The natural gas industry employs thousands of union workers in middle-class careers. The ordinance would put the livelihoods of Chicago residents at risk.

A December poll of 500 likely voters conducted by Impact Research found that voters in Chicago heavily favor a mix of affordable energy over a rapid ban on natural gas. That same poll showed voters in Chicagoland found that 72 percent of people want a gradual transition rather than a rapid ban on gas. The

vast majority of voters prefer having energy options, which could be eliminated if a ban on natural gas is allowed. We want to be part of a plan that realistically works toward the goal of a cleaner city, while providing a range of energy options that are both green and affordable.

At this time, it makes no sense for Chicago to put in place a mandate that bans natural gas and takes away residents' clean energy options. We are calling on Chicago residents to join the voice of 31 Chicago Alderpeople and fight back by telling Mayor Johnson to decarbonize the right way. End the ban on natural gas now.

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ABOUT THE IUOE LOCAL 150: The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150 is a labor union representing 23,000 working men and women in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Local 150 members operate and maintain heavy equipment in a variety of industries, which include heavy highway and building construction, heavy equipment rental and repair shops, construction material production, concrete pumping, hoisting, steel mill service, slag processing, pits and quarries, landfills, testing and drilling, pipeline, landscaping, public works, and more. In addition to securing work for its union members, Local 150 fights on behalf of all working men and women to ensure fair wages and equal pay. Most recently, Local 150 championed The Worker's Rights Amendment in 2022, ensuring constitutional protection for all Illinois workers to join a union.