

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



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Dear Senator,

On behalf of the over 40,000 workers the ILWU represents, I write in strong opposition to two sections of the House Reconciliation bill – Title IV Energy and Commerce and Title XI Ways and Means – both of which will deeply impact our members’ jobs and the livelihood of the ILWU.

More specifically, Title IV, Subtitle C, Part 2 “Artificial Intelligence and Information” authorizes \$500 million to modernize and deploy automated technologies and artificial intelligence while placing a ban on states to regulate AI and automation for 10 years. For years, the ILWU has fought for protections against automation as new technologies are introduced and the nature of our work changes. This proposal gives widespread authority to implement new technologies such as AI and automation in the workplace with no guardrails or oversight. We are deeply concerned that this will deteriorate our jurisdiction and consequentially, put our members out of a job. We must have protections in place when it comes to automation and our jobs.

Title XI, Section 112209 “Termination of Tax-Exempt Status of Terrorist Supporting Organizations” creates an arbitrary standard to financially punish nonprofits that don’t align with the Administration’s agenda. We have concerns that this could be unfairly used against unions and the results would be catastrophic to the ILWU and other unions throughout the country.

For these reasons, we ask that you oppose and strike these provisions from the final bill.

Sincerely,

Robert Olvera Jr.
International President