

RESOLUTION NO. 26-08

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PORTER COUNTY,
INDIANA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE MEMBERS OF UNITED
STEELWORKERS LOCAL 7-1 AND ENCOURAGING A PROMPT AND FAIR
RESOLUTION OF THE LABOR DISPUTE AT THE BP WHITING REFINERY**

WHEREAS, the BP Whiting Refinery in Lake County, Indiana has been an important part of the economy of Northwest Indiana for generations, and United Steelworkers Local 7-1 represents approximately eight hundred (800) skilled workers at the refinery, including residents of Porter County; and

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between the parties expired in January of 2026, and since March 19, 2026, the members of Local 7-1 have been locked out of their employment while the parties continue their efforts to reach a successor agreement; and

WHEREAS, the lockout has now continued for nearly six (6) months and affects not only these employees and their families, but also the businesses, service providers and communities throughout Northwest Indiana whose economies are interconnected with the refinery and its workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is informed that the parties returned to the bargaining table on September 14, 2026, and regards the resumption of negotiations as an encouraging development for the parties, their families and the region; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the contributions that organized labor and the skilled trades have made to the economic strength of Northwest Indiana, and believes that good faith collective bargaining provides the best means of resolving labor disputes and of maintaining stable and productive relationships between employers and employees;

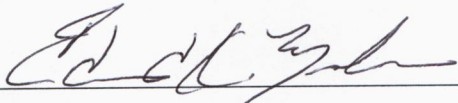
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Porter County, Indiana, as follows:

1. The Board expresses its support for the members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 and for the workers and families affected by the ongoing lockout at the BP Whiting Refinery.

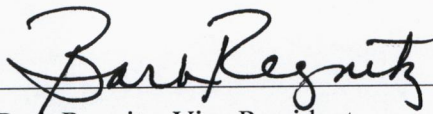
2. The Board respectfully urges BP and Local 7-1 to continue the negotiations resumed on September 14, 2026, in a meaningful and good faith manner, and to conclude a fair agreement that protects the long term stability of the refinery and respects its workforce.
3. The Board further encourages BP to take the steps necessary to bring the lockout to an end and to return the members of Local 7-1 to work while the parties continue to work toward a lasting agreement.
4. The Auditor of Porter County is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to United Steelworkers Local 7-1, to BP Products North America Inc., to the Governor of the State of Indiana and to the members of the Porter County legislative delegation of the Indiana General Assembly.
5. This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESOLVED this 15th day of September 2026.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA



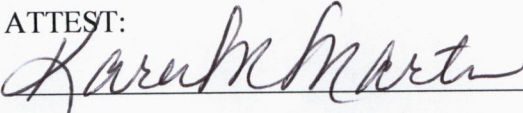
Ed Morales, President



Barb Regnitz, Vice President

Not In Attendance

Jim Biggs, Member

ATTEST:


Karen Martin, Porter County Auditor