

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MEMBERS OF UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 7-1 AND URGING BRITISH PETROLEUM TO END THE LOCKOUT AT THE WHITING REFINERY AND RESUME GOOD-FAITH BARGAINING

WHEREAS, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 represents approximately 800 workers at the British Petroleum refinery in Whiting, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2026, British Petroleum locked out approximately 800 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 from their jobs at the Whiting refinery; and

WHEREAS, many of these workers and their families live, work, worship, volunteer, shop, and participate in civic life throughout Northwest Indiana, including in communities such as the Town of Schererville; and

WHEREAS, the lockout has placed significant financial and emotional strain on working families who are now living without their regular paychecks; and

WHEREAS, members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 are not only refinery workers, but also neighbors, parents, coaches, scout leaders, volunteers, customers, taxpayers, and active contributors to the strength and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 has stated that its members did not voluntarily walk off the job, but were instead locked out by British Petroleum after rejecting proposals that would eliminate more than 100 local jobs, reduce pay, and weaken seniority and bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS, the right of workers to bargain collectively, protect good local jobs, and negotiate in good faith is essential to economic stability of working families and the communities they support; and

WHEREAS, the continued lockout has consequences not only for the locked-out workers and their families, but also for local businesses, schools, neighborhoods, and municipal economies throughout Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Whiting refinery is a major industrial facility whose safe operation is of great importance to surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 has raised serious concerns about the health and safety risks created by operating the refinery with replacement workers instead of the trained, experienced local workforce that knows the facility, its equipment, and its hazards best; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility to speak in support of the health, safety, economic security, and general welfare of their residents, and

WHEREAS, the Schererville Town Council recognize the importance of resolving this dispute quickly, fairly, and in a manner that respects works, protects good jobs and promotes the safe operation of the Whiting refinery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: The Schererville Town Council expresses the support for the locked-out members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 and their families.

SECTION TWO: The Schererville Town Council urges British Petroleum to immediately end the lockout of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 members at the Whiting refinery.

SECTION THREE: The Schererville Town Council further urges British Petroleum to return to the bargaining table and bargain in good faith with United Steelworkers Local 7-1 toward a fair agreement that protects local jobs, respects workers' rights, and supports the long-term safety and stability of the refinery and surrounding communities.

SECTION FOUR: The Schererville Town Council recognizes the importance of experienced, trained refinery workers in maintaining safe operations at a facility that directly affects the health and safety of Northwest Indiana communities.

SECTION FIVE: The Schererville Clerk-Treasurer is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to British Petroleum, United Steelworkers Local 7-1, state and federal elected official representing Northwest Indiana, and any other parties deemed appropriate by the Town Council.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF
_____, 19____, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
SPRINGFIELD, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD, LAKE COUNTY,
INDIANA, TOWN COUNCIL

Robert L. Smith, President

Thomas E. Smith, Vice President

Robert L. Smith, Treasurer

Robert L. Smith, Secretary

Robert L. Smith, Auditor

ATTEST:

MAYOR & BOARD OF TOWN CLERKS, ACTING 19____ & 19____

TOWN CLERK