



Eastern Atlantic States
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

1803 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130 | Phone: 215-569-1634 | EASCARPENTERS.ORG

September 2, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Wilkerson and Members of the School Board,

The City of Philadelphia has been hit hard in 2020 and all of us in the city have felt the pain. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of too many in our city, shut down local businesses, and devastated our local economy. These troubles will not be fixed overnight or with a silver bullet. It will take actions on all levels to make sure our city recovers through good paying jobs and new development options.

One major area of development that must be made a priority is the former PES refinery site. I represented hundreds of Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters members who lost their jobs after the unfortunate closure of the refinery. With the decision made to no longer utilize this site as a refinery, we as a city now have an opportunity. An opportunity to take an old refinery site and make it a new economic engine for Philadelphia.

To do this we have to make sure the site is safe. The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters urge you to extend the Keystone Opportunity Zone so that the location can be made safe and new development can take place. This development can create more than 19,000 permanent jobs for our region, as well as more than 13,000 jobs during the remediation and construction of the state-of-the-art logistics hub that sits within a six-mile drive of 1/3 of the American population.

To fill these construction and remediation jobs, HRP Philly will turn to union trades, generating an estimated \$8.76 million dollars of compensation during this initial phase of the project. Make no mistake, these jobs provide a livable wage, quality benefits and safe working conditions for Philadelphia families at a time when a global pandemic and weakened economy threatens the livelihood of many union members. As part of HRP Philly's commitment to union labor, an apprentice and workforce development program is being formed to assure that these jobs utilize local construction workers.

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters firmly urge the School Board to extend the existing Keystone Opportunity Zone.

Sincerely,

Michael Hand
Assistant Executive Secretary-Treasurer



EASTERN ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

Representing members in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington D.C., and 10 counties in North Carolina

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