

Mr. M. Ignatieff
Honourable Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Ignatieff,

I attended the labour rally you spoke at Local Union 105 in Hamilton last summer. Your energetic words gave me a sense of hope for our shipbuilding industry. I now hear via the rumor mill that you and Mr. Scott Brison supported the signed agreement of free trade with The European Free Trade Association. As you likely know or have been told, this will kill the new ship building industry in our Niagara area. Why are you working against the new shipbuilding industry?

Were you fooling us when you said you supported the skilled trades sector and put on the LU 105 jacket? Don't you support health and safety that protects humans? Workers overseas don't have the same health and safety legislation or enforcement and therefore a significant cost advantage. Shipbuilding creates hundreds of jobs in our area! Why is your team supporting the outsourcing of this industry to other countries with poor regulations and an unfair advantage?

We built world class ships here in the Niagara region. Do you want us all to become farmers and grow grapes and peaches? We need real jobs not minimum wage work. At minimum wage we can't even buy peaches or wine.

Shipbuilding reduces our carbon footprint. Don't you support reducing pollution?

Please contact me and let me know what you're going to do to support new ship construction at Port Weller Dry Docks.

Sincerely (and looking for a skilled trades job)