December 4, 2014

## Steelworkers in the U.S. Virgin Islands: Ask Our Senators to Bring Back Jobs!

By speaking out together, we have changed our community for the better. Not long ago we fought to get an eight percent pay cut back for public sector members and won. Now we need to mobilize again to bring back Steelworker refinery jobs to the U.S. Virgin Islands!

The legislature is currently debating an Operating Agreement between our Government and Atlantic Basin Refinery. If passed, it would lead to a restart of the refinery on St. Croix. That facility had operated for over 50 years and was a vital source of family-supporting jobs before it closed over two and a half years ago. When operations stopped, two thousand people lost their livelihoods. These were Steelworker members, our sisters and brothers. The consequences were swift and lasting: unemployment soared, workers left in search of other employment, tax revenue fell and our community businesses that depended upon the refinery suffered. The impacts continue to harm our islands.

We now have a real opportunity to restart the facility and bring back hundreds of much-needed, quality jobs. A vote in the full Senate could occur within a few weeks. Please take part in this action and urge Senators to support and pass the Operating Agreement without delay!

## **Action Instructions**

- 1. Print out copies of the attached letter. Find it HERE.
- 2. Get Steelworkers, family and community members to sign the letters! Circulate them widely!
- 3. Please return the letters as quickly as possible by mailing or hand-delivering them to the St. Thomas or St. Croix USW offices. Or, contact USW Staff Representative Jerry Jackson at <a href="mailto:jjackson@usw.org">jjackson@usw.org</a> or 340-778-5634 to make other arrangements. We will copy and mail the letters to each Senator as soon as we receive them.

Office locations & mailing addresses:

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