



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter April 2025

Thank you for reading the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) California newsletter! This month we're sharing a new resource from BGA that highlights major progress made in domestic manufacturing growth and recommendations for further action. Keep reading to see the list of bills our coalition is officially supporting, as well as a spotlight on the oil industry's attempt to weaken safety rules that protect refinery workers and what BGA is doing to save it.

ICYMI: BlueGreen Alliance releases 2025 Federal Manufacturing Roadmap

The federal team at BGA released a [2025 Manufacturing Roadmap](#) to be used as a resource for manufacturing policy and to highlight major progress made in domestic manufacturing growth. The roadmap includes recommendations for further action to secure the clean manufacturing renaissance our country needs and emphasizes that clean manufacturing is the future of *all* manufacturing. Ensuring the United States remains competitive depends on sustaining investment in industrial transformation.

"To lead this next era of clean industrial manufacturing, the United States must deliver on the critical federal investments started by the last administration," said **NRDC Action Fund President and CEO Manish Bapna**. "The federal government has an opportunity to revive domestic industries, compete in the global clean economy, and protect the health of our communities and workers. We cannot let up now."

Since the Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law, private investment in U.S. manufacturing has skyrocketed. Business and consumer investment totaled \$493 billion since 2023, a 71% increase from the two-year period preceding the passage of the law.

"For the first time in decades, America has begun to open factories across the country thanks to the landmark legislation we secured under the last administration," said **Sierra Club Executive Director Ben Jealous**. "This progress has created the pathway for America to lead the world in industrial transformation, and our leaders must seize the opportunity in front of them so we can create jobs, rebuild communities, and create and sustain a healthy environment with economic gains for everyone."

Read the full press release [here](#).

Legislative Update:

The BGA coalition has taken official support positions on the following bills:

[AB 288 \(McKinnor\)](#). This bill is a top priority for BGA partner California Federation of Labor Unions that would protect a worker's right to join a union and bargain collectively by ensuring the state can step in to vindicate workers' fundamental rights if they are unable to get a remedy at the federal level. The bill passed out of Assembly Labor and Employment and heads to Assembly Appropriations.

[AB 472 \(Zbur\)](#). This bill, co-sponsored by Environment California, would require the Governor's office to include port development in their five-year infrastructure report. The bill passed out of Assembly Natural Resources and will be heard next in Assembly Appropriations.

[AB 832 \(Muratsuchi\)](#). Sponsored by BGA partner the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), this bill would extend funding already allocated to install HVAC systems in schools under the California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing, and Efficiency Ventilation Program (CalSHAPE) still goes out to improve air quality in schools. Unfortunately, this bill is currently being held in the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee.

[SB 294 \(Reyes\)](#). This bill—another priority for California Federation of Labor Unions—would educate labor and civil rights workers and employers under state and federal law to promote adequate, just, and equal enforcement of worker protection laws.

[SB 513 \(Durazo\)](#). Sponsored by the United Steelworkers (USW), this bill would ensure that personnel records related to an employee's performance include education and training records and would require the records to be accurately maintained to include this information. This bill passed out of Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee and is now on the Senate Floor.

[SB 787 \(McNerney\)](#). Sponsored by the United Auto Workers (UAW), this bill would create an office in the California Energy Commission (CEC) to coordinate supply chain build out in the offshore wind, battery, building decarbonization, and heat pump sectors to take California's leadership in the climate space to the next level while creating high road, union

jobs. The bill passed out of Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and heads to Senate Appropriations next.

Spotlight: Defending California Refinery Safety Regulation

BGA—along with group of California labor, environmental, and community organizations—sent a letter to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA) in April opposing to the proposed amendments to the state’s landmark Process Safety Management (PSM) rules.

[Find the full community and worker opposition letter here.](#)

Following a massive fire at the Chevron Richmond refinery in 2012, which threatened the lives of 19 workers and caused 15,000 residents to seek medical attention, labor, community and environmental justice advocates came together to strengthen California’s refinery safety regulations. After five years of campaigning, in 2017, CalOSHA and the CalEPA enacted the PSM rule, which established detailed and effective procedures to quickly identify and respond to safety threats within refineries, and critically, protected the vital role of workers and their union representatives to speak up and ensure action is taken. The Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) opposed these new regulations, and on behalf of California’s oil refineries, sued the State of California in 2019. The state settled these lawsuits behind closed doors, with zero warning or consultation with impacted workers and community organizations.

The settlement triggers another rulemaking to adopt WSPA’s proposed amendments. If the WSPA changes go into effect, it will significantly weaken California’s landmark refinery safety regulations (PSM), resulting in:

1. Less protection from highly hazardous materials—by changing what is defined as highly hazardous.
2. Fewer safety procedures designed to minimize the dangers in this inherently hazardous industry—by limiting the definition of what constitutes a major change of refinery operations
3. Weaker solutions to safety problems—by diminishing the consideration of actions that eliminate instead of just reducing safety and health hazards
4. Reduce critical decision-making power for refinery workers and their unions—by giving oil company management the power to pick their own PSM representative and ignore the findings and recommendations of the workers who are trained and elected to protect each other, the fenceline and the environment.

Find news coverage of this story in Public Health Watch and KQED:

[‘Secret Deal’ in California Would Weaken Regulations for Oil Refineries](#)

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on what you want us to cover, please let us know: fgracey@bluegreenalliance.org

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The BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) unifies labor unions and environmental organizations into a powerful force working for an economy that fights climate change, protects the health of people and the environment, stands against economic and racial inequality, and creates and maintains good-paying, union jobs in communities across the country.

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