

# Congressman meets with steel employees in Weirton

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*U.S. Rep. Riley Moore, R-W.Va., at right, stands with USW 2911 President Mark Glyptis during a visit to Weirton Wednesday.*

WEIRTON — U.S. Rep. Riley Moore continues to see opportunity for the Weirton area and Upper Ohio Valley region, as plans continue to bring a transformer manufacturing operation to the community.

Moore, R-W.Va., brought that message to a group of approximately 20 United Steelworkers officials and employees while visiting Weirton on Wednesday afternoon.

Moore, who, while serving as West Virginia auditor, was involved in obtaining a \$50 million investment from the state to help launch the transformer project, said

while it is *“painful and difficult”* to see the Weirton tin mill idle, he believes there is great opportunity coming for the community.

*“I think there is huge potential,”* Moore said, adding the transformer project, announced last year by officials with Cleveland-Cliffs shortly after the idling of its Weirton tin plant, would provide good-paying jobs. *“This facility is going to be state-of-the-art.”*

Announced in July, the transformer production facility is slated to develop within one of the Cleveland-Cliffs facilities in the Half Moon Industrial Park.

Company officials had noted plans for the creation of approximately 600 jobs, with an investment of \$150 million and a plan to begin operation sometime in 2026.

USW 2911 President Mark Glyptis, thanking Moore for his support throughout the process, offered encouragement to the gathered employees, explaining an agreement to provide employment to any of those workers who went through layoffs last year from the tin mill is still in place.

*“Nobody did more,”* Glyptis said of Moore, who was elected to represent West Virginia’s 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives last fall. *“He hasn’t forgotten us.”*

Moore said the launch of the transformer facility has the potential to bring other manufacturers to the area, as well, whether they be in industries which could feed or benefit from transformer manufacturing, or those who see the opportunity in the growth of the region.

*“Other manufacturers tend to cluster,”* he said. *“That’s what I want to see happen.”*

Moore also discussed the U.S. Reciprocal Trade Act, which he introduced in January, with the goal of increasing a president’s power to address foreign tariff and non-tariff trade barriers on U.S. exports.

*“That could be a law, a subsidy, a regulation,”* Moore said. *“We’re trying to create reciprocity.”*

Moore also briefly touched on ongoing discussions about the future of U.S. Steel, which has been in negotiations for a possible sale by Japan's Nippon Steel.

*"There are some big discussions at a very high level,"* Moore said.

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# Weirton Transformer Facility Still Eyed For 2026

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United Steelworkers officials say, while there have been a few hurdles to overcome, plans remain in place to begin operations of a new transformer manufacturing facility in Weirton in 2026.

Cleveland-Cliffs announced plans for the facility in July, a few months after idling its tin operation in Weirton, saying the new operation would be located in the Half Moon Industrial Park.

Plans have called for a \$150 million investment – \$50 million of which was provided by the State of West Virginia – and the creation of approximately 600 jobs.

Wednesday, during a visit by U.S. Rep. Riley Moore, R-W.Va., USW 2911 President Mark Glyptis said those plans remain in place, and are progressing.

“We want to bring people back,” Glyptis said, noting some obstacles have arisen as a result of supply chain issues.

Last year, Cleveland-Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves announced there were no plans to resume tin production in Weirton, something Glyptis confirmed Wednesday.

The tin market, he said, continues to get smaller in the United States, with new materials being used in place of the metal in products around the world. Several companies which had purchased tin from Cliffs prior to Weirton’s idling last year, he said, still had an available supply in the manufacturing of their own products.

“We can go from a struggling business to a growing business,” he said, noting projections would provide jobs in Weirton for generations.

Steel from Cliff’s facilities in Butler, Pa., and Zanesville, Ohio, would be used in the fabrication of the transformers, according to John Saunders, staff representative for USW District 1, who added, with the growing need for electricity in the world

as a result of technology, replacement of existing or damaged infrastructure, and other development, the need of transformers will continue to grow.

“If you think about it, it’s going to be the perfect thing,” Saunders said.

Glyptis acknowledged there will be some level of automation in Weirton’s transformer facility, calling it “the most modern” and “state-of-the-art” facility to ever exist in the area, he said there still be opportunity for every employee who went through a layoff from Weirton last year to return, if they would like to.

“There’s enough work there to hire everyone who worked here and wants to come back,” Glyptis said.

Approximately 200 trucks are expected to depart the facility each day, once it is fully operational, he claimed.

Glyptis also said he anticipates construction to begin in the months ahead, as a bid should be announced soon. Some of the construction also is planned to be performed by Cleveland-Cliffs employees, with Glyptis saying workers would be called back, according to scale.

“You’re going to be on the ground floor of something great,” he said.

<https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/news/local-news/2025/03/weirton-transformer-facility-still-eyed-for-2026/>