

# RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE 2011

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## **RESOLUTION #1**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

### **IN SUPPORT OF PA HOUSE RESOLUTION 134**

Recognizing the right of workers to form a union and collectively bargain with employers; and calling for an end to the war on workers.

**WHEREAS**, Representative Pat Harkins introduced PA House Resolution 134 on March 17, 2011 to the General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, public-sector and private-sector union workers are our friends and neighbors, and through their efforts they enable us to meet our commitments to all citizens of this Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, the right of our citizens to unionize positively affects working conditions, wages, benefits and our communities as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, labor unions are responsible for the civilized working conditions we take for granted, including 40-hour work weeks, laws pertaining to child labor, health and safety standards, overtime pay and health insurance and pension coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the right of workers to organize and form unions has directly led to the growth and success of the middle class in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, a coordinated attack on workers' rights and middle-class protections has commenced in state capitals across the country at a time when elected officials should be working to create jobs and strengthen their state economies rather than paying back corporate sponsors and attacking political enemies; and

**WHEREAS**, as a central part of our democracy, labor unions are the bulwark of a strong middle-class society, and no democracy denies public-sector or private-sector employees the right to organize and participate in a union and to negotiate at arm's length and in good faith with their employer; and

**WHEREAS**, collective bargaining is not a weapon but rather a reasonable method for workers and employers to resolve disagreements in good faith,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives recognize and express its strong support for the rights of workers, including the right to form a union and to collectively bargain in good faith with an employer; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives call for an end to the war on workers and recognize that a strong middle class is the only way to ensure the United States economy remains sound: and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the PA Conference of Teamsters would like to thank Representative Harkins, a former Teamster UPS Driver for 25 years, for standing with us and we are asking all representatives to sign onto Resolution 134 and stop the assault on workers.

## **RESOLUTION #2**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

### **IN OPPOSITION TO PA HOUSE BILL 50**

Resolution opposing an Anti-Worker Right-to-Work Bill Introduced by PA Representative Metcalfe on April 5, 2011

**WHEREAS**, Representative Metcalfe introduced PA House Bill on April 5, 2011 to the General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, this Bill would have a devastating affect on labor and set labor back 100 year; and

**WHEREAS**, middle Class wages would be eroded; and

**WHEREAS**, these "right to freeload" laws are on the books in low-wage states like Mississippi and South Carolina. That's not a coincidence. When union wages go down, workers' wages fall throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, a coordinated network of think tanks, business groups and phony grass-roots organizations has for years been working toward passing these right-to-work (for LESS) laws. Leading the charge is National Right to Work. The only right it defends is billionaires' right to their wealth. The anti-worker group attracts funding from the Mellon heirs, the Wal-Mart heirs and the Coors heirs; and

**WHEREAS**, right-to-work bills are political payback for campaign contributions by corporations and billionaires. They are supported by false claims that they create jobs. What they have done in the states where they've been enacted is lower wages by an average of \$5,333 a year.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the PA Conference of Teamsters strongly condemns PA HB 50 and we vow to fight this bill with all our resources until it is defeated; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that will we work relentlessly to defeat those that choose to support these anti-worker bills.

## **RESOLUTION #3**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

In Support of Restoring Funding for Penn State University

**WHEREAS**, Governor Tom Corbett proposed a 52% cut in appropriations to the Pennsylvania State University; and

**WHEREAS**, No business could survive a 52% cut to their budget; and

**WHEREAS**, this would cost the Teamsters many good paying jobs through permanent furloughs; and

**WHEREAS**, having a negative impact by forcing colleges to raise tuitions adding an additional burden to families caught up in these tough economic times,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters calls on Governor Corbett and the state legislature to refrain from cutting any funding on higher education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that failure of the Governor and legislature to restore all funding will result in job loss, higher tuition, and fewer families able to financially provide for their children's education.

## **RESOLUTION #4**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

### **IN OPPOSITION TO THE MEXICAN TRUCK PILOT PROGRAM “A JOB-KILLING SAFETY HAZARD”**

**WHEREAS**, Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced he would resume talks with Mexico over a cross-border trucking program. The program would allow Mexican trucks to operate anywhere in the United States beyond the currently permitted commercial zones; and

**WHEREAS**, this cross-border program will potentially kill thousands of U.S. truck driving and warehouse jobs and destroy the local economies at the border: and

**WHEREAS**, the drug violence in Mexico won't allow any U.S. carriers to risk the safety of its drivers or the value of its equipment and cargo to operate in Mexico. This proposal is a “one-way street” for Mexican carriers. So the loss of U.S. trucking and warehousing jobs will not be offset by new jobs created by cargo moving south to Mexico: and

**WHEREAS**, Mexico simply doesn't have the ability to guarantee the safety of its drivers. Mexico's standards for issuing its Commercial Drivers License are suspect; and

**WHEREAS**, at a time of record budget deficits and proposed cuts in essential programs, it is impossible to justify spending more money on a program that has already cost \$500 million. U.S. taxpayers are being asked to pay for overseeing the safety of Mexican trucks because Mexico has not taken the necessary steps to bring its safety regime up to U.S. standards,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the PA Conference and the IBT is strongly urges our affiliates to tell the US DOT that the Teamsters are against this program and want to keep the borders closed based on the above facts. By faxing your comments in opposition to this program and asking that the borders remain closed, will help delay or stop our borders from being open. Fax comments to: US Dept. of Transportation at (202) 493-2251 and include Docket No. FMCSA-2011-0097 in your letter.

## **RESOLUTION #5**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011  
IN SUPPORT OF THE D.G. YUENGLING & SON  
BOYCOTT

**WHEREAS**, the contract between Teamsters Local No. 830 and D.G. Yuengling & Son expired on March 31, 2006. Yet, on March 9, 2006, Yuengling withdrew union recognition, declaring it would no longer negotiate with Local 830, and launched a union busting campaign. This situation has not changed; and

**WHEREAS**, at the request of Local 830, the PA Conference is continuing its boycott of the following D.G. Yuengling brands: Yuengling Premium Beer, Yuengling Light, Lord Chesterfield Ale, Dark Brewed Porter, Traditional Lager, Light Lager, and Original Black & Tan,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters continues to support Teamsters Local 830 in its efforts to fight the company's union-busting campaign, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters urges all PA Conf. members and their families not to buy Yuengling products until further notice.



## **RESOLUTION #6**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011  
IN SUPPORT OF POLITICAL ACTION AND  
VOTER REGISTRATION

**WHEREAS**, the recent events in Wisconsin, Ohio and New Jersey were anti-worker legislation and anti-labor are on the rise and a direct threat to our existence: and

**WHEREAS**, the continuing economic recession has increased the pressure on state & local governments to develop new sources of tax revenue. These entities have now declared war on workers' wages and benefits. Now more than ever, political action and voter registration is a must to protect our members' jobs, and

**WHEREAS**, since 1984, the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters has fought for pro-worker legislation in Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, Delaware and West Virginia, and our efforts continue,

**WEREAS**, our failure to register to vote and to vote have brought us to a critical juncture in history because now there are many elected officials in office that are extremely anti-labor; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters reaffirms its commitment to its strong political action program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters urges all members and their families to register and vote in all future primary and general elections, and to support our endorsed political candidates because failure to stop the anti-labor candidates from being elected will result in the erosion and elimination of good paying jobs, benefits and the rights of workers.

## **RESOLUTION #7**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011  
IN SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS  
IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

**WHEREAS**, thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces remain on active duty in both nations and in many other parts of the world, and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of these servicemen and women are proud Teamster members of the various Armed Forces Reserves called to active duty. These dedicated Teamsters, along with their fellow servicemen and women who have completed their military service and returned home, are true patriots and a credit to their families, our nation, our International Union and to the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters pledges its continued support of our Armed Forces now on active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations, and of those serving in the Reserves, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters thanks and salutes these brave men and women for their selfless and heroic patriotism and wishes them all a safe tour of duty and a speedy return home; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it is their sacrifices over the years that has made it possible for us to enjoy our standard of living such as the right to form unions.

## **RESOLUTION #8**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

### **IN OPPOSITION TO THE SOUTH KOREA TRADE AGREEMENT “THE SON OF NAFTA”**

**WHEREAS**, in a time of record unemployment and economic downturn, we do not need another trade agreement that is essentially a giveaway to the big multinational corporations. The South Korea trade agreement will soon be submitted to Congress. It is the largest agreement since NAFTA; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. has lost 5 million jobs since NAFTA was enacted; why would we want this “Son of NAFTA”? According to the Economic Policy Institute, this proposed trade deal would cost 159,000 U.S. jobs over seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. International Trade Commission has also estimated that the South Korea trade agreement would increase our trade deficit and has identified nine economic sectors that would be affected, including some of the highest-paying industries in our country, such as motor vehicles and parts, electronics equipment, and metal products; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the PA Conference strongly urges Congress to oppose the South Korea trade agreement. Now is not the time for another job-killing trade agreement. Rather than continuing along the lines of failed trade agreements like NAFTA, we need a new trade policy framework that will create jobs in the U.S.

## **RESOLUTION #9**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

### **IN OPPOSITION TO PA SENATE BILL 1 SCHOOL VOUCHERS**

**WHEREAS**, school districts across Pennsylvania are struggling with reduced revenues due to the Basic Education Budget being reduced by 10%. In addition to the Basic Education Reduction, the schools districts with a high concentration of economically disadvantaged students lost millions of dollars in Federal support. The adoption of a voucher system will further divert an additional billion dollars from the school districts with the greatest need. Vouchers will result in cuts to vital educational services, enrichment programs and extracurricular activities; and

**WHEREAS**, private, parochial and charter schools are exempt from public school requirements regarding staffing, assessment and accountability. Public Schools are required to have Highly Qualified Certified Staff, evaluate students using the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and have community input related to its expenditures and student performance measures. It's irresponsible to authorize taxpayer money to subsidize private schools and not hold them to the same standards; and

**WHEREAS**, another misconception is that Senate Bill #1 will allow students to use their "Opportunity Scholarship" to select from a diverse collection of educational institutions. Private schools are not bound to accept all students so those that need additional services or resources will be denied entry. Public Schools are obligated by law and will remain committed to providing a Free Appropriate Public Education to all students that enroll,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the PA Conference of Teamsters strongly urges the PA Senate to vote no on PA SB 1 Bills are developed with desired outcomes in mind however they are also subject to natural logical consequences. In this case the costs far outweigh any gain.

## **RESOLUTION #10**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

In Opposition to PA House Bill 3 as it  
Is Currently Drafted

**WHEREAS**, upon initial reading it appears that they cover public/private partnership agreements for future development of transportation facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, after a more careful review, these bills envision not only development of new transportation facilities but also acquisition and leasing of current facilities. In effect, this would grant statutory authority for a public/private partnership to acquire or lease the PA Turnpike; and

**WHEREAS**, under Section 9107 of the proposed House Bill notwithstanding that the current employees of the PA Turnpike would not be adversely affected if ownership changed, the union would have to negotiate with the new owner upon expiration of the current labor agreement. Furthermore, there is ambiguity created by Section 9107 (9) of the Bill. If, for example, the Turnpike was acquired it would nevertheless remain public property. Therefore, what rights would a private company accrue if they acquired the Turnpike? The Bill is unclear; and

**WHEREAS** the bill provides for electronic tolling of new highways thereby eliminating future employment opportunities for toll collectors; and

**WHEREAS**, if the Turnpike was acquired or leased, the new owner may not be governed by Act 195 but governed by the NLRA. This could affect the current certification of Teamster members employed by the PA Turnpike, and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters calls on the PA House and Senate to include language that will fully protect Teamster Jobs and safe guard them from possible future public/private partnership agreements on the Turnpike or any other road that may be tolled that could affect their certification and collective bargaining rights.

## **RESOLUTION #11**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

In Opposition to PA Senate Bill 805

Electronic Publishing of Ads

**WHEREAS**, this bill pits government against private enterprise, eliminating a large percentage of good jobs and tax revenue. Many of your constituents work in the newspaper industry and their employer pays sizable taxes to state, county, local and school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, if newspapers in your district lose the listing of public notices it would have a grave impact upon the workers jobs and the industry as a whole. With the current economic down turn, many small newspapers are barely surviving. PA SB 805 could be the final blow to many newspapers; and

**WHEREAS**, this bill would take public listings from local hometown papers and place them into more costly journals and/or onto web sites. By using electronic public notice as opposed to the local hometown newspaper, many hard working men and women within the Commonwealth of PA will not have easy access to this vital information; and

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania has a much larger elderly population than most other states and many of the senior citizens live on fixed incomes and would not be able to afford internet services or a computer. They would also find it hard to afford transportation to have access to a computer, let alone know how to use one when they got there,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the PA Conference of Teamsters Executive Board and our 95,000 members strongly oppose SB 805. Additionally, the Director of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Newspaper, Magazine and Electronic Media Conference, Joseph Molinero advises that the IBT Newspaper Conference also strongly opposes PA SB 805.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the PA Conference of Teamsters is asking the PA Senate to protect the jobs of the hard working men and women in the newspaper industry in PA and oppose SB 805. Now is not the time to be placing more hardship to an already weakened economy in Pennsylvania. The PA Senate and House needs to be working on creating jobs not eliminating them.

## **RESOLUTION #12**

Of the Annual Meeting, May 2011

### **IN SUPPORT OF THE LATOURETTE/COSTELLO AMENDMENT**

The Federal Aviation (FAA) Reauthorization and Reform  
Act of 2011

**WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives is working on H.R 658, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011 and included in the legislation is a provision to repeal a recent rule issued by the National Mediation Board (NMB) that allows a majority of those voting in aviation and rail union elections to decide the outcome. Before this new rule, workers who did not vote were automatically counted as “no” votes against the union; and

**WHEREAS**, the new NMB rule makes union elections in the aviation and rail industries fair and democratic and is the same election standard used for workers covered under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and other labor law, and

**WHEREAS**, an amendment to the bill will be offered by Representatives Steven LaTourette of Ohio and Jerry Costello of Illinois to protect the democratic election rules issued by the NMB,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the PA Conference strongly urges Congress to support fair and democratic elections and please vote 'YES' on the LaTourette/Costello amendment.