



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2010

INTRODUCTION

The legislative priorities of the Teamsters Union for the second session of the 111th Congress focus on creating and keeping good jobs, protecting workers' rights and safety and ensuring financial security for working families.

CREATING AND KEEPING GOOD JOBS

Pension Reform

With unemployment rates at all-time highs across the country, it is time to save jobs by protecting pensions. Reps. Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) and Pat Tiberi (R-Ohio) have introduced H.R. 3936, the Preserve Benefits and Jobs Act of 2009. This legislation would provide pension funding relief for both single- and multi-employer pension funds. The Teamsters Union supports H.R. 3936. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced S. 3157, the Create Jobs and Save Benefits Act of 2010. This bill provides relief to troubled multi-employer plans. The Teamsters Union supports S. 3157. On June 25, President Obama signed into law H.R. 3962, the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010, which provides much-needed multi-employer plan relief. The Teamsters Union worked actively in support of this legislation.

Health Insurance Reform

In March, President Obama signed into law the most comprehensive health insurance overhaul in decades. The Teamsters Union supports health insurance reform. We will continue to work to ensure that the needs of working families are of paramount concern as this reform is implemented.

Energy and Climate

We must get America running on clean energy by creating clean energy incentives while protecting jobs, wages, benefits and labor standards. The Teamsters Union supports a balanced approach to comprehensive energy and climate change legislation.



State Recycling Programs

Recycling creates 10 times as many jobs per ton of waste as landfills and incinerators. The Teamsters Union supports more investment in recycling programs and incentives to expand recycling infrastructure. In particular, the Teamsters Union supports the State Recycling Program included in S. 1733, the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act.

Fair Trade

The U.S. has lost more than 3 million manufacturing jobs since 1998. Our trade policy must be fixed. The Teamsters Union supports S. 2821, the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment Act (TRADE Act) and its House companion, H.R. 3012. The TRADE Act establishes a new trade policy framework for the country, lays the foundation of how trade agreements should be negotiated and articulates what agreements can and cannot include.

PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS AND SAFETY

Employee Free Choice Act

If given the chance, most American workers would join a union; however, a recent study showed that 30 percent of employers fire pro-union employees. The Teamsters Union



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supports S. 560, the Employee Free Choice Act and the House companion bill, H.R. 1409. The Employee Free Choice Act would give workers a fair and direct path to form unions through majority sign-up, help employees secure a contract with their employer in a reasonable period of time and toughen penalties against employers who violate their workers' rights.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization/Express Carrier

Workers at different companies who perform the same tasks in the same industry – such as express delivery drivers – should be treated equally under the law. Unfortunately, they aren't. The House has passed the FAA Reauthorization bill, now numbered H.R. 1586, three different times, with the Express Carrier provision included. The provision requires employees of express delivery companies to be covered by the Railway Labor Act only if they perform airline-specific functions; other jobs at express carriers, like truck drivers and sorters,

would be covered by the National Labor Relations Act. The Senate passed its version of the FAA bill in March, without the express carrier provision. The House and Senate bills are now being reconciled, and the Teamsters Union supports inclusion of the Express Carrier provision in the final FAA Reauthorization legislation.

Clean Ports Campaign

Ninety-five percent of the goods imported to the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico flow through our ports. For decades, a loophole in the law allowed employers to deny port drivers' basic rights by misclassifying them as independent contractors. The Teamsters Union, as part of the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports, supports a federal amendment to the Motor Carrier Act. The amendment would allow ports to require harbor trucking companies to employ their drivers instead of using them as independent contractors.

Worker Misclassification

For many years and in many industries, employers have wrongly classified employees as "independent contractors." It deprives workers of employment protections and gives employers an unfair competitive advantage by driving their costs down. The Teamsters Union supports H.R. 3408, the Taxpayer Responsibility, Accountability, and Consistency (TRAC) Act, and the Senate version of TRAC, S. 2882. This legislation would solve the growing problem of worker misclassification by closing the Section 530 "safe harbor" loophole, which currently allows employers to circumvent the Internal Revenue Service's classification test and misclassify workers as independent contractors.

Cross-Border Trucking Pilot Program

In 2007, the Bush Administration opened the border to trucks from Mexico. As many as 100 Mexican carriers, who do not meet



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U.S. safety standards, were granted operating authority beyond the border commercial zones. The Teamsters Union persuaded Congress to end this program in 2009. In response, the Mexican government is now imposing tariffs on certain U.S. exports. The Teamsters Union urges the U.S. Trade Representative to challenge the Mexican tariffs on U.S. products and to support a permanent ban.

Interstate Commerce Act Amendment

In recent years, there have been several cases of a railroad line being sold to an entity which is not statutorily defined as a railroad carrier; thus, eliminating statutorily mandated benefits guaranteed to the workers on that line. The Teamsters Union supports an amendment to the Interstate Commerce Act which would ensure that railroad carriers, as statutorily defined, in the case of a line creation, acquisition or sale, maintain that status as railroad carriers, enabling current railroad workers, as statutorily defined retain their work in any line upgrade, sale or creation.

ENSURING FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Financial Services Reform

In the aftermath of a full-blown global economic crisis and the worst recession in decades, bold action is needed to secure economic stability, eliminate predatory lending, ensure fairness for taxpayers and protect workers and their jobs. The Teamsters Union supports the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. We urge President Obama to move swiftly to sign this essential legislation into law.