



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2011

INTRODUCTION

In the 112th Congress, working families can expect to face serious attacks on their rights. With renewed vigor, corporate special interests will push an anti-worker legislative agenda that threatens workplace safety, prevailing wage standards, project labor agreements, and collective bargaining rights. These job-killing policies threaten our ability to recover from the economic recession and put America back-to work.

The legislative priorities of the Teamsters Union for the 112th Congress ensure that the needs of working families are considered paramount in the policy-making process. Our legislative agenda prioritizes job creation, protects workers' rights and safety, ensures financial security for working families, and calls for a regulatory agenda that puts working families first.

CREATING AND KEEPING GOOD JOBS

Pension Reform: The Teamsters Union advocated for the temporary pension relief provisions enacted into law in the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-192). However, longer-term relief remains a need for the nation's multiemployer pension funds, due in part to stock market losses in 2008. In addition, the Teamsters Union supports specific relief that would shore up the long-term solvency of multiemployer funds.

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 and regulation; one that creates jobs through investment in recycling programs and incentives to expand recycling infrastructure. We oppose regulatory and legislative action to control carbon emissions that fails to address the costs associated with transitioning to a clean energy



economy and places American manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage.

Fair Trade: The Teamsters Union supports a new, comprehensive approach to trade. We cannot continue along this path, as a result of NAFTA-style trade agreements. The Teamsters Union supports the reintroduction of the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment Act (TRADE Act) legislation that would establish a new trade policy framework for the country, lay the foundation of how trade agreements should be negotiated, and articulate what agreements can and cannot include. We continue to oppose the South Korea, Panama, and Colombia trade agreements.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Congress failed to enact a massive highway bill for the second year in a row and must find stable funding sources, including a national infrastructure bank, to move this legislation forward in the 112th Congress. The Teamsters Union is the largest and most diverse transportation union in the country, representing members in every mode. Close to 600,000 members turn a key on a truck to start their workday and another 100,000 work in the rail and transit industries. As a result, we will work to increase motor carrier and rail safety initiatives and to develop a transportation bill that prioritizes investment in road, bridge



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and intermodal infrastructure to rebuild deteriorating structures and expand both freight and intermodal hubs, thereby relieving congestion, increasing productivity, and provide a safe workplace for our members



in the transportation industry. Consequently, the Teamsters Union will oppose any attempt to increase truck size and weight that would further damage our failing infrastructure. At the same time, we will work to reduce carbon emissions across the supply chain and ensure that all of those responsible for the safe transportation of their goods contribute their fair share to the infrastructure investments from which they benefit. This enormous investment in infrastructure improvements must help create quality high-wage jobs that offer workplace rights and protections, and federally-funded transportation projects must be subject to prevailing wage standards and project labor agreements where required. In a period of increasing transit ridership, we will support flexibility in the use of transit capital funds for operating expenses so needed levels of service can be maintained

Strengthen and Protect the Right to Organize: In Congress, as well as in State legislatures across the country, pro-business groups are advocating enactment of "Right to Work (for Less) laws in an effort to weaken unions and further restrict employees' ability to form a union. The Teamsters

Union opposes legislative and regulatory initiatives that obstruct or restrict employees' in their efforts to form a union. We support legislation like the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009, which 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.

PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS AND SAFETY

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. In the 111th Congress, the House passed the FAA Reauthorization bill three different times, with the Express Carrier provision – a provision requiring 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. Failure by Congress to finalize the FAA bill required another extension to be passed. The Teamsters Union will continue to support inclusion of the Express Carrier provision in the FAA Reauthorization legislation in the 112th Congress.

Clean Ports Campaign: Ninety-five percent of the goods imported to the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico flow through our nation's ports. Federal preemption has prevented ports from fixing the polluting unsafe and congested port trucking system. The Teamsters Union, as part of the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports, supports federal legislation amending the Motor Carrier Act that would update the 30-year-old statute to allow ports to condition entry of trucking companies to public port facilities for the purposes of addressing environmental,



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safety or congestion issues. Ports could require harbor trucking companies to hire drivers as employees instead of misclassifying them as independent contractors.

Health and Safety: Since Congress enacted the Occupation Safety and Health Act (OSHA) 30 years ago, significant strides have been made in reducing the number of injuries and fatalities in the workplace. However, tens of thousands of workers still die annually from work-related injuries and 50,000 die as a result of occupational disease. Congress must provide adequate resources for health and safety programs, strengthen enforcement, and update and strengthen regulatory standards. The Teamsters Union supports efforts, like the Protecting Americas Workers Act of 2010, which increase civil and criminal penalties for companies that violate workplace safety and health laws, improve whistleblower protections, and give more rights to injured workers, their family members and the family members of workers killed on the job. We will oppose any effort to repeal, revoke, weaken, or delay the enactment of any health and safety standard that makes all workplaces safe and better protects workers.

Prevailing Wage: The purchasing power of the Federal Government should not be used to depress local labor standards. The Teamsters Union supports Congress' continued application of Davis-Bacon to construction projects receiving any kind of federal assistance.

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 through a pilot program that granted Mexican carriers





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operating authority beyond the currently permitted border commercial zones. Unmet driver and vehicle safety standards by Mexico and lax U.S. enforcement allowed the Teamsters Union to persuade Congress to defund this program in 2009. In response, the Mexican government has imposed tariffs on certain U.S. exports and has threatened to roll those current tariffs onto a new set of products. Recently, the Department of Transportation released a concept document, outlining a phased U.S. Mexico Cross-Border Long Haul Trucking Program, allowing Mexican trucks to travel beyond the currently permitted commercial zones to anywhere in the United States. While the U.S. and Mexico will enter into negotiations over the operational elements of the program, this framework falls far short in ensuring that all Mexican trucks and drivers will meet U.S. safety standards. The Teamsters Union will continue to oppose this ill-conceived plan that puts highway safety and U.S. jobs at risk.

Public Employees: Public Employees are the back bone of this country. However, all too often, public employees are wrongly blamed for state budget shortfalls and a growing deficit. The Teamsters Union opposes attacks on public employees' salaries, benefits, pensions, and the right to bargain collectively, in the name of fiscal conservatism. We support the creation of good, union jobs through expanded collective bargaining rights, especially for public safety officers.

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: The Teamsters Union supports the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. We will continue to work to ensure that the full strength of the Act is realized in its implementation. To that end, it is essential that the strength and independence of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau be retained in its implementation and that agencies charged with new oversight responsibilities be funded at their requested levels.

Social Security: Social Security is the foundation of retirement income for American workers and their families and protects families from impoverishment due to death or disability. Especially at a time when traditional pension plans are under assault, Social Security is the one safety net that provides individuals with a certain income they can count on at retirement. The Teamsters Union opposes proposals to balance the budget and address our nation's debt that disproportionately impact union households or threaten the retirement security of working people. Social Security does not contribute to the deficit nor by law can the Social Security program borrow or go into debt. Consequently, the program's long term-funding gap should be addressed outside of the deficit conversation. The Teamsters Union supports efforts to strengthen Social Security and close the long-term funding gap. However, closing the gap does not necessitate benefit cuts, changes to the retirement age, or privatization.

Health Insurance Reform: The Teamsters Union supports increased patient access to care, insurance company reforms, quality care, and coverage for the uninsured. The implementation of the Patient Affordability



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Act should not have adverse consequences for those already with employer-sponsored coverage. In addition, the Teamsters Union supports the inclusion of Taft-Hartley plans on state exchanges and clarity with respect to collective bargaining agreements.

A REGULATORY AGENDA THAT PUTS WORKING FAMILIES FIRST

This year, ensuring labor-friendly rules and regulation will be of particular importance. The Teamsters Union supports regulatory action that strengthens good laws, like the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and places work-

ing families first. We encourage action from the Department of Labor, National Labor Relations Board, and National Mediation Board that would give workers a fair and direct path to form unions and toughen penalties against employers who violate their workers' rights. Similarly, we encourage regulation that strengthens enforcement of workplace health and safety standards. Where regulatory action has the potential to impact our members' jobs, we encourage a balanced approach which emphasizes transparency and facilitates input from stakeholders at all points in the policy-making process.