

Resolution in Support of Worker's Right To Strike

Whereas, on December 2, 2022 the U.S. Congress and President Biden concluded the passage into law of House Joint Resolution 100, thereby unilaterally imposing on 115,000 of America's railroad workers a contract without short-term paid sick leave that had been rejected by unions representing over half of those workers,

Whereas, the concerted effort using the provisions of the Railway Labor Act to prevent these workers from exercising their right to strike had been in the works for months by the Biden Administration, in seeming contradiction to said Administration's claims of being pro-labor,

Whereas, railroad companies have been recording record profits in recent years at the expense of a humane work-life balance for their employees, and took advantage of the positioning of the Biden Administration in resisting the reasonable demands of the rail unions,

Whereas, all the Democrats in Washington State's Congressional delegation, representing the citizens of the third-most union-dense state in the nation, voted to take away these worker's right to strike,

Whereas, our Democratic Congress members could have followed the lead of progressive champions including Bernie Sanders (VT), Elizabeth Warren (MA), Jeff Merkley* (OR), Rashida Tlaib (MI), and Mark Pocan (WI), in standing up for worker's rights by voting against HJR 100,

Whereas, the right of workers to strike is a cornerstone of U.S. labor law and workers with the freedom to exercise those rights have always been the prime movers in the march toward a more economically equitable society,

Whereas, public-opinion polling shows support for unions among Americans at the highest level since 1965, and worker activism and union formation is currently surging all across the economic spectrum,

Therefore be it resolved that the 1st District Democrats stand opposed to the "yea" votes on HJR 100 of the Democratic members of our Congressional delegation.

Be it further resolved that the members of our Congressional delegation and President Biden are urged to refrain from future actions against or in interference with worker's right to strike.

Be it further resolved that we urge the members of our Congressional delegation to draft language and vote in favor of legislation that repeals the Railway Labor Act and puts railroad and airline workers on the same bargaining footing as most other unionized workers.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Democratic members of Washington State's Congressional delegation and the President of the United States.

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Central Committees of the King County Democrats, the Snohomish County Democrats, and the Washington State Democrats.

Submitted by Evan Wipf (PCO BOTHELL 38), February 2, 2023

Recommended DO PASS by Issues Committee, February 2, 2023

Approved by membership at the February 22, 2023 General Meeting

*Quote from Senator Merkley: "My point here is that forcing people to have no sick time and you fire them if they don't show up is like an 18th century French coal mine. It's an absolutely outrageous way to treat your workers."