

RESISTANCE TO TPP GROWS IN ALL CORNERS

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



Hundreds of Teamsters were joined in the streets of Atlanta in October by other fair trade advocates sticking up for everyday Americans who could be hurt by the implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Unfortunately, the negotiators didn't take our advice.

Instead, officials from all 12 TPP countries involved in the pact came together and attempted

to declare victory for the deal. They praised all aspects of the pact, but were largely muted on what the costs would be for workers on both sides of the Pacific.

Protesters warned about the problems the Pacific Rim trade deal could bring to people around the world.

Whether it's jobs being shipped overseas and wages being driven down in the U.S., medicine prices going through the roof, unsafe food and products heading to our shores or a more toxic environment, that wasn't enough to sway TPP negotiators.

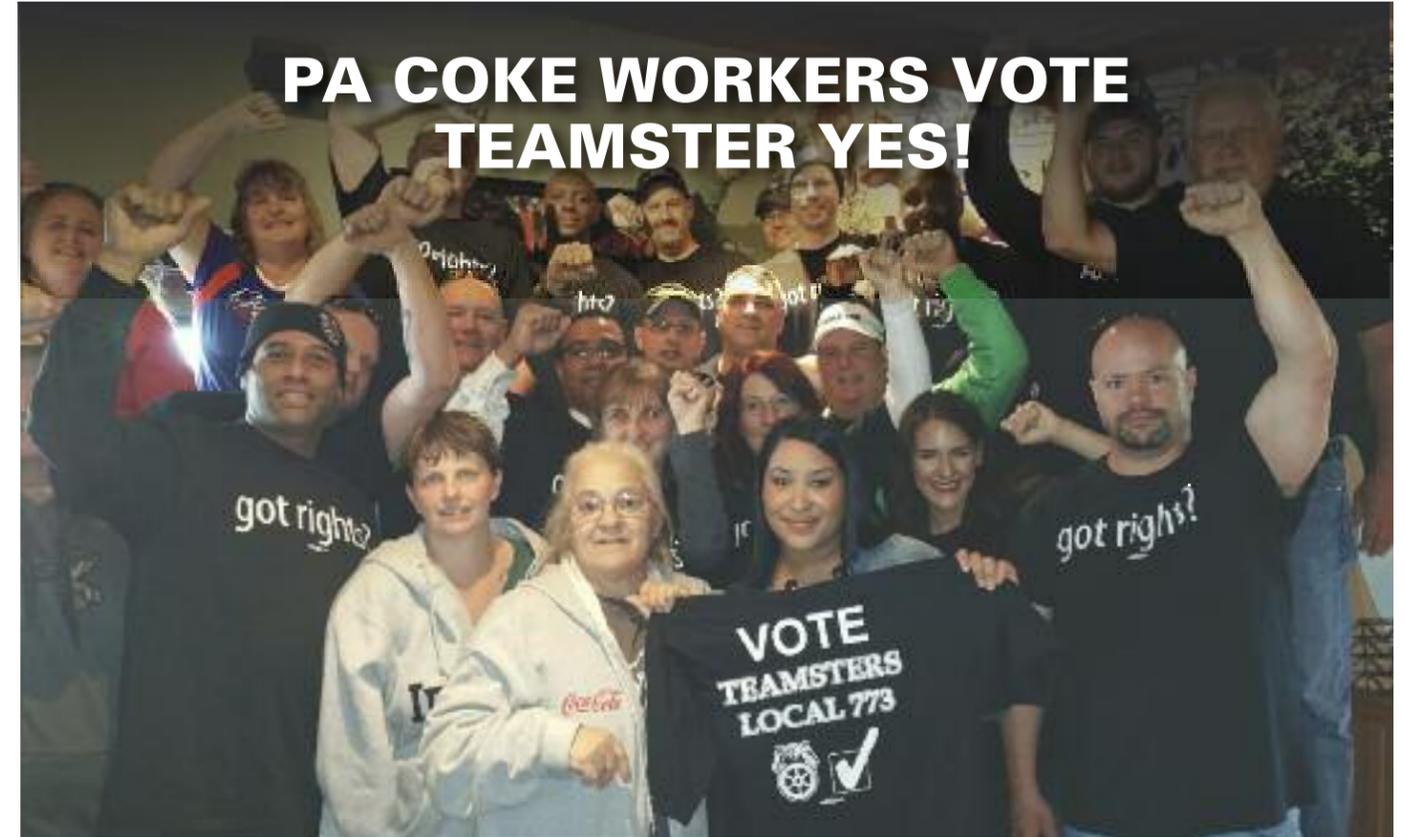
But demonstrators weren't alone in their concerns. For example, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who helped push through fast track trade authority, said the TPP in its current form raised serious concerns. Even Ford Motor Company said the agreement would only worsen an already obscenely large U.S. trade deficit and that Capitol Hill lawmakers should reject it.

In short, this is a bad deal that should be rejected by Congress. As the Teamsters have stressed as part of its new Let's Get America Working campaign, businesses must invest at home, not abroad. And elected officials need to remember who they serve. Corporations aren't people too.



BREWERY & SOFT DRINK News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | David Laughton, Conference Director



PRODUCTION WORKERS JOIN LOCAL 773

By a majority vote, production workers at the Coca-Cola manufacturing facility in Allentown, Pa. have voted to join Local 773. There are 90 employees in the bargaining unit, all of which work in the syrup production facility, the key ingredient in Coca-Cola beverages.

"After many years of not being heard, the employees of Coca-Cola Lehigh Valley syrup plant finally have a voice," said Dan Rice, an employee for the past 16 years. "I look forward to this new partnership knowing that when we work together we can accomplish many great things."

Coca-Cola has, over the years, diversified their inventory of beverages in order to suit current tastes and this plant is no different. In addition to Coca-Cola, other sodas such as Sprite, Fanta and Powerade are

made at this facility.

"These Coca-Cola employees work hard to keep the production levels high and we are proud to be their union representatives," said Dennis Hower, President of Allentown-based Local 773. "We already represent other employees of at an independent bottler of Coca-Cola products, and we have experience negotiating contracts in this industry. We look forward to working on the first collective bargaining agreement here."

"The majority of the workforce here felt that union representation was right for our future," said Sean Werner, a four-year employee. "I would like to thank Brian Taylor, Daniella De Leon, Dennis Hower and the rest of Local 773 for guiding us to a successful election. I am proud to say as Teamsters we finally have a voice."

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Teamster Strength Built Through Organizing

The local unions in our Conference have been doing a great job of assisting workers in the industry who want to unionize. In particular, thank you to Locals 773 and 830 for their work to bring in new members to the Teamster family from Coca-Cola, Dr Pepper and Snapple.



Workers know that the best contracts are Teamster contracts so it's often the case that when one facility in town has a Teamster contract, or one part of a production facility has one, the other facility's workers hear about it and want to fight for similar benefits and wages. I'm proud to say that our Conference always wants to ensure that brewery and soft drink workers are paid good wages and have good benefits. As General President Jim Hoffa has frequently said, "A rising tide lifts all boats." This is exactly what we strive to achieve with our negotiations and contracts.

Our strength as a union is being tested with the fight to keep the MillerCoors facility in Eden, N.C., open. As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, we are standing with the leaders of Local 391 as they organize rallies and call on legislators to put a stop to the proposed closing of the plant. The Eden facility, which employs nearly 500 workers, is a vital part of the MillerCoors production system. We are working diligently with departments at Teamster headquarters to fight MillerCoors on their plan. And, we are standing strong with our members in Local 727 working in Chicago at Coca Cola who have been out on strike for the past several weeks. Their fight to win a good contract is important and we will continue to support them in negotiations and on the strike line.

Local 830 Adds To Soft Drink Strength



Coca-Cola, Dr Pepper Workers Sign Up

Inventory control specialists at the Coca-Cola facility near Philadelphia recently joined Local 830. The 19 new members join the more than 500 other workers at Coca-Cola who already belong to Local 830, a longstanding representative of soft drink workers.

The checkers, shippers and receivers working in inventory control had not received a wage increase in several years and there was no set work schedule. Good wages and a stable work schedule are hallmarks of a Teamster contract therefore the local union is now gearing up for first contract negotiations.

"They wanted a voice on the job," said Danny Grace, President of Local 830. "The workers had enough of the bad treatment from management and saw how much better their fellow workers in the facility had it since they were under a Teamster contract."

A Second Win

The local union also won another organizing victory when workers at the Bethlehem, Pa., production facility for Dr Pepper and Snapple voted to become Local 830 members. The 34 members work in the transportation and warehouse departments.

"We wanted to vote for the Teamsters because we needed to get some guidelines, like you'd have in a contract, in order to make this place better," said Rod Moreira, a transportation driver for the past 5 1/2 years. "I used to work at Penske and I knew the value of a union contract. So, when the opportunity to be a member came about, I knew this would be positive."

During the organizing campaign the local union provided the workers with a survey so they could prioritize the needs of the unit.

"The new members at Dr Pepper/Snapple told us that they needed help with improving their wages and we have that now as our number one priority once we start bargaining their first contract," Grace said.



TEAMSTERS CALL ON MILLERCOORS TO KEEP N.C. BREWERY OPEN

LOCAL 391 PARTICIPATES IN SENATE HEARING

At a U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing recently, concerns were raised about the recent decision by MillerCoors to close its Eden, N.C., brewery by the end of 2016.

The hearing by the Senate Subcommittee on Antitrust and Consumer Rights examined the proposed merger between AB InBev and SABMiller and the related proposal to sell SABMiller's interest in the MillerCoors joint venture to Molson Coors.

The decision to close the Eden brewery, which would eliminate roughly 10 percent of MillerCoors' total production capacity and destroy about 450 Teamster jobs, was announced on Sept. 14, 2015, just two days before merger talks between AB InBev and SABMiller became public.

"The announcement came as a shock to us," said David Laughton, Director of the Teamsters Brewery and Soft Drink Workers Conference which represents more than 1,300 MillerCoors workers nationwide. "MillerCoors never mentioned the possibility of a plant closure during contract negotiations for a new three-year contract that was ratified in February 2015."

The Eden brewery won the MillerCoors "Brewery of the Year" award three out of the last five years and was awarded the American Manufacturing Excellence (AME)

award in 2013. Eden is one of the most modern and efficient breweries in the MillerCoors system.

Senate Hearing Exposes Intentions

In testimony before the Senate subcommittee, Diana Moss, President of the American Antitrust Institute, cautioned the planned closure of the Eden brewing facility raises "fundamental questions about strategic intent."

Mark Hunter, CEO of Molson Coors, claimed in his opening remarks that "nothing changes for our consumers, customers, distributors or our communities as a result of our purchase of SABMiller's ownership interest in MillerCoors."

"That is not true in my community," said Vernon Gammon, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 391 in Greensboro, N.C., which represents 450 workers at the Eden facility. Gammon, who worked in the Eden brewery when it first opened in 1978, traveled from North Carolina to Washington, D.C. to attend the hearing.

"It is not too late for MillerCoors to change course," said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President. "We call on MillerCoors to work with us and with officials from North Carolina to save good jobs and keep this state-of-the-art brewery operating."