

# 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.



James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Bubba Davis, Division Director



## ILLINOIS TRAINING CENTER GOES EXTRA MILE

### Commitment To Defensive Driving

Talking with Mike Borjas, the director of the Illinois Teamsters Joint Council No. 25 Employers Apprenticeship and Training Fund in Joliet, Ill., you'd think that he was drawing up a lesson plan for training military personnel. But his goal is providing the best training for Teamsters working in the construction trades as he can. Fortunately for the union, he is accomplishing this every day.

The Joliet facility trains 1,000 to 2,000 members per year in a variety of necessary skills. This facility trains on Forklift Certification, Illinois Department of Transportation Flagger Certification, 8-hour Hazwoper Refresher, 10-hour OSHA Certification, Pipeline/Stringer Certification, HMIT DOT Certification and more. (For a complete list of courses, please refer to the training fund's website: [www.illinoisteamsterstraining.org](http://www.illinoisteamsterstraining.org).) The facility is large and includes several garages and paved areas. The garages hold equipment such as dump trucks, lowboys, forklift, stringer trailer, driving simulator, and even a school bus used for construction and pipeline training exercises.

#### Teamster Jobs

"A trained and certified Teamster member is an employed member," Borjas said during a recent tour. "What we aim for here is to provide comprehensive training so that our members can maintain the Teamster reputation for supplying the best-trained, skilled workers for any type of construction project. All this is possible because to our professional staff and our strong and progressive

minded Board of Trustees."

Many members interested in the construction trades have some prior military experience, and this can be augmented by the training at the Joliet facility. "We have a 200-hour CDL training course for someone with experience and an apprentice course which takes four years," said Borjas. "We added the extra 40 hours in the 200-hour training course in order to supplement the Illinois requirement with defensive driving and other topics."

Borjas explained that the decision to add defensive driving to the CDL course was driven by the fact that the biggest accident problem in the military is not IEDs or other explosives, it's off-duty collisions.

"What I tell our students is that you have to remember you are in the same position as a Teamster when you are off duty. And when you are off duty you are just as liable," Borjas said.

#### Training Nationwide

The Illinois Training Center is just one of the training facilities affiliated with the Teamsters that service members across the country which rely on federally funded grant programs administered through the Teamsters Safety and Health Department. Los Angeles, Boston, Anchorage (Alaska), Pasco (Wash.), Northern California, Knoxville, Newburgh (N.Y.), Tennessee, South Carolina, Las Vegas and Miami are home to construction training facilities at local unions that offer a broad range of courses.

"We have made training and certification a priority

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## LONG RANGE PLANNING ESSENTIAL

Several years ago, my local building trades council hosted a tripartite meeting. All of the big guys were there. Bechtel, Fluor, Stone & Webster, Washington Group, Foster Wheeler, Day Zimmerman and many more. Some of the names have changed but they are all still around.



Their message was very clear: "If you guys don't do something different than you are doing now, you won't be able to fill the jobs for the work that will be here in 8-10 years." We all thought they were crazy as bats.

Well guess what? It's here! Now I'm hearing from more and more of you that you can't man your work.

I'm not talking about pipeline. We seem to have that covered and that industry is in its best year ever and next year is supposed to be even better.

I'm talking about building and construction work which is also seeing the best times these industries have seen in the last 10-12 years.

We have to do something different or we are going to lose this industry. The Division is busy fighting for our work every single day and we're doing very well, yet right down the road we have good-paying Teamster jobs that we are losing because we don't have anyone to send or, most of the time, don't have anyone that wants to go.

These jobs don't pop up overnight; they are planned for years ahead of time. We should be following these projects every day instead of waiting until they get ready to start and then wondering where you're going to get the hands from.

You need to be creative and make long-range plans. Call us for more advice.

There's nothing worse than having job opportunities that will grow your local union, as well as our International, pass us by.



This summer, the Washington/Idaho Teamsters Training Center near Tacoma, Wash., saw the graduation of its first group of five veterans who took part in six weeks of training which will be followed by 3,000 hours of on-the-job training as part of the construction truck driver apprentice program.

Called VET (Veterans Entering Trucking), the program was designed to provide civilian employment opportunities to active and/or recently separated servicemen and servicewomen.

According to Western Workers Rising, an AFL-CIO publication for Western states, the training center is a certified apprenticeship program open to all candidates looking to have a career as a construction truck driver in Washington state.

The program was made possible by the support of Col. H. Charles "Chuck" Hodges, Commander of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), where the training was held.

"We are proud to provide this program," said Tom Hamilton, Director, Washington/Idaho Teamsters Training Center in Tacoma Washington. "It is truly a win-win deal for the military, the individual servicemen and women, the employers and the state of Washington."

## ILLINOIS TRAINING

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in our union because we believe that a well-trained Teamster member is the most productive and safest worker on any construction site," said Bubba Davis, Director of the Teamsters Building Material and Construction Trade Division. "With our union's call to repair and maintain infrastructure, we predict that a variety of construction projects will be coming on-line very soon and we want our members to be prepared. And with training at facilities such as ours in Joliet, they will."



The International Brotherhood of Teamsters unveiled a new "Let's Get America Working" campaign this September in advance of the 2016 election that will encourage both Democratic and Republican lawmakers to endorse a pro-worker platform.

At the center of the platform is the need for this country to invest in infrastructure, which in turn will create good jobs for everyday Americans. Working on transportation, energy and water projects will put thousands to work in construction jobs across the country. It will also improve roads, bridges, ports and other infrastructure, which in turn will help business and improve the U.S. economy.

The U.S. Labor Department's own statistics support the Teamsters' initiative. The median union worker earns more than \$200 a week more than the median non-union worker. That's an extra \$10,000 a year that goes into the pockets of union workers. These jobs also offer health benefits and retirement security.

Infrastructure presents an opportunity to break the political gridlock. Congress in late July approved a three-month extension for spending on transportation projects that provides a temporary patch until the end of October for the continuing issue of road and rail funding. But it is not a real solution.

The transportation system continues to crumble and the safety of those who work and travel along the vast network of U.S. roads and rails is being jeopardized. Our nation's failure to maintain and improve our infrastructure is costing Americans more and more.

There also is a significant need to move forward with a broader agenda that puts U.S. workers first. That means standing up against lousy trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership that send American jobs overseas; protecting workers' rights to form unions and collectively bargain; increasing affordability of college and vocational schools; and ensuring retirement and pension security for working families.

If elected officials from both parties want to rebuild and repair the trust between government and workers, they need to reinvest in people that have and can continue to make this country great. Better pay will lead to more spending and improve workers' quality of life. That way everyone wins.

Let's Get America Working! Now is the time to Build, Repair and Maintain America!

## FIRST CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERED WIRE PRODUCTS

Local 377 Members Ratify Contract  
with Construction Company

After voting to be represented by Local 377 in Youngstown, Ohio, in March, more than 25 workers at Engineered Wire Products recently ratified their first collective bargaining agreement.

The company produces rebar

used in cement construction projects as well as specialty wire products for other uses in the industry.

Sam Cook, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 377, said that workers wanted the key elements of a Teamster bargaining agreement: a voice in the

workplace, a seniority system, fair wages and representation.

"They wanted a say in their wages and with this contract they will have a voice and be able to keep their health care plan for the three-year term with no payment increases," Cook said.

