

# LET'S GET AMERICA WORKING

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA

The Teamsters have had enough of workers becoming an afterthought in Capitol Hill policy decisions. There needs to be a way to bring a bipartisan collection of lawmakers together for the good of regular working men and women who are just trying to support their families. And there is one – infrastructure investment.

A better transportation network would help both truckers and the owners of their cargo more efficiently move goods across the country. It would help workers get to their jobs more quickly. And increasing the flow of energy like oil and natural gas would lower prices for consumers and businesses. Plus, construction work would create good-paying jobs.

Rebuilding America is the key to the nation's future. Whether it's building new roads or fixing old bridges, the idea is a winner not only for workers but the business community. It's rare when Congress can help two constituencies with one plan. This is it.

Now is the time to think big. To ignore the need for such a massive program will result in catastrophe for the



health, safety and welfare of Americans and the U.S. economy. Let's get America working and revive our nation to the shining city on the hill it once was again.

*James P. Hoffa*



# WAREHOUSE News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Steve Vairma, Division Director



## ATLANTA SYSCO WORKERS JOIN TEAMSTERS, FTC SUES TO BLOCK MERGER

Local 528 Wins Big Victory as Union Continues to Fight Sysco-US Foods Merger

More than 400 Sysco drivers and warehouse workers recently voted to join Local 528 in Atlanta. The 220-141 vote count secured the biggest victory at Sysco in years as Sysco and US Foods continue to pursue their mega merger.

"This is a huge victory for the workers and it shows that they are determined to have a collective voice on the job," said Maurice Cobb, President of Local 528.

Sysco workers in Atlanta organized in response to unfair work rules and concessions to the company. Like warehouse workers around the country, workers in Atlanta are also wary of job losses that may result from Sysco's possible acquisition of US Foods. Their victory in December came just two months after Sysco drivers in Kansas City, Mo., voted to join Local 41.

"This is such an important achievement for me, my co-workers and our families. With everything that is happening at Sysco and US Foods, we need union representation – and I'm

happy today because now we have it," said Sysco driver Lennie Ransby.

"Our pay has been decreased and more work has been put on our backs. The unfair treatment has to stop – that's why we voted for the Teamsters," said Bruce Her, a warehouse worker for Sysco.

Since winning elections in Atlanta and Kansas City, the company retaliated against several workers by firing them. The union filed numerous unfair labor practice charges and the NLRB issued a complaint against Sysco in Atlanta, seeking reinstatement and back pay for the fired workers. On May 18, the fired workers were back on the job.

Another close election at Sysco in Grand Rapids, Mich., involving up to 200 warehouse workers and drivers is being challenged due to serious unfair labor practices and other violations committed by the company during the vote. Meanwhile, US Foods workers in Corona, Calif., who joined Local 63 last year recently ratified their first contract, improving

their wages, benefits and job security.

"Like federal regulators and customers around the country, workers are concerned about a possible merger between Sysco and US Foods – and that's why more workers are joining the Teamsters," said Steve Vairma, Teamsters International Vice President and Director of the Teamsters Warehouse Division.

### Government Files Lawsuit to Stop Merger

The Teamsters have been among the loudest voices regarding Sysco's \$3.5-billion bid to merge with US Foods, identifying some 90 overlapping broadline facilities and up to 2,500 Teamster jobs at risk if the deal goes through. The companies offered to divest and sell a small number of their facilities to Performance Food Group, the third-largest company in the industry.

But on February 19, the Federal Trade Commission filed a lawsuit to block the merger; hearings began in May. While the union applauds the

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## AT THE FOREFRONT ON ISSUES THAT MATTER TO OUR MEMBERS

Working families continue to face many challenges. Billionaire-backed politicians are spearheading more laws in more states designed to silence workers. Corporate greed continues to run rampant as major companies like Sysco and US Foods plot mergers and acquisitions with untold consequences for workers.

Fortunately, Teamster members have a powerful union fighting for them – and the Warehouse Division is at the forefront of all these issues within the union. We are aggressively organizing new members, pressuring regulators to enforce fairness in the industry, and bargaining strong contracts for workers nationwide.



Our national Sysco-US Foods campaign is gaining momentum. We have successfully sounded the alarm on the dangerous merger between the two companies, calling attention to the harm it could bring to Sysco and US Foods Teamsters. Our national actions are paying off as the FTC heeds the warnings we and many other consumers have raised about the merger.

In the meantime, we are successfully organizing more Sysco and US Foods workers into the union. We made history with our big Sysco organizing victories in Atlanta and Kansas City late last year. And our brothers and sisters at US Foods in Corona, Calif., who joined the union in September, recently ratified their first contract. We have more organizing campaigns under way around the country.

We are winning other organizing drives throughout the industry, from Roma Foods workers in California who are now members of Local 630 to drivers and helpers supplying Starbucks stores in New England who joined Local 25.

At UNFI, we are teaming up with community allies to pressure the company. Our actions in front of stores and at shareholder meetings are shining a public spotlight on UNFI's hypocrisy and anti-union behavior.

The Teamsters Warehouse Division remains active on all fronts. But we're only as strong as our members. I urge you to get involved in your union. Talk to your co-workers about our campaigns and consider becoming a member organizer to help unorganized workers become Teamsters.

We have a lot of work to do.

## SYSCO-US FOODS MERGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FTC's actions, the fight to protect jobs is far from over.

The Teamsters have held numerous actions to keep both union and nonunion workers engaged while raising awareness among customers who are worried about the merger's effect on competition.

"We will continue do everything in our power to protect our members' jobs and their union contract," Vairma said.

## More Warehouse Organizing and Contract Wins

### Hunts Point Teamsters Win Contract, Wage Increases

Workers at Hunts Point Market in Bronx, N.Y. voted to approve a new, three-year contract in January, with 97 percent of workers voting "yes." The 1,300 workers, members of Local 202, will receive significant wage increases in each year of the contract. "It's our best wage and benefits package in two decades," said Daniel Kane Jr., President of Local 202. The new contract averted a strike which was authorized by the workers earlier in the month. Hunts Point Market is the largest produce market in the world, serving most of the restaurants and grocers in the New York area.

### Roma Drivers, Warehouse Workers Overwhelmingly Vote for Teamsters

California warehouse workers at Roma Food, a Performance Food Group company, voted by a 3-1 margin in favor of joining Local 630 in Los Angeles in February. The 53 workers in the predominately Latino bargaining unit are seeking respect and an end to substandard wages, benefits and working conditions. Their victory came on the heels of an earlier organizing victory among the 84 drivers at the facility who voted 82 percent in favor of joining Local 630 in November 2014.

### Starbucks Supplier Workers Join Local 25

Drivers and helpers at DPI Specialty Foods voted to join Local 25 in Boston in January. Among the 44 workers, who supply to all Starbucks stores in New England and upstate New York, 37 voted in favor of Teamster representation. The drivers and helpers at DPI sought Local 25 support in an effort to address concerns with employee health care costs, which the company had raised by 8 percent. Workers were also concerned with pay.

# SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET

## TEAMSTERS TURN UP THE PRESSURE AT UNFI



### Actions Target Bad Practices of Natural Foods Wholesale Company in California

Teamsters have been ramping up actions to demand UNFI, the largest organic and natural foods wholesaler in the country, recognize the union formed by drivers in Moreno Valley, Calif., last year. UNFI is a \$6.8-billion Fortune 500 company and the primary supplier to Whole Foods Markets.

On February 26, Teamsters and other community leaders protested Sprouts Farmers Market, which is supplied by UNFI. Protestors called attention to Sprouts' health code violations and UNFI's community and worker abuses, distributing balloons and leaflets that read, "Sprouts: Unhealthy for our Community."

"UNFI and Sprouts both claim to be values-driven organizations," said Marc Moran, organizer at Joint Council 42 in Pomona, Calif. "We are here today to inform the public about UNFI's unconscionable behavior."

UNFI broke federal laws that protect workers' rights when it intimidated, threatened and fired workers in Moreno Valley. In November 2014, the Teamsters Union was federally certified as the drivers' union after the company managed to delay the counting of the ballots for over a year on a technicality. But UNFI still refuses to recognize the workers' union.

"Over the years, UNFI has tried to undermine workers who have asserted their rights protected by United States law, even where the Teamsters have been certified as the workers' union through federally supervised elections," said Steve Vairma, Teamsters Warehouse Division Director. "UNFI wants to destroy its workers'

fundamental rights to join together to improve their working conditions."

"Whenever a group of workers at a UNFI warehouse or truck yard attempt to form a union, UNFI management brutalizes them with a barrage of tactics based on contempt and fear, solely for the purpose of intimidating their own workers. It's time Sprouts took a stand to stop this illegal bullying behavior in their supply chain," said Randy Korgan, Organizing Director for Local 63 in Covina, Calif.

Following the action at Sprouts, Teamsters and organic food advocates held an action at the annual Natural Products Expo West conference, which was sponsored by UNFI. They informed attendees about UNFI's abusive and unsustainable behavior toward its workers. Protesters held banners while an airplane banner flew over the Anaheim Convention Center that read, "UNFI: Stop the Bullying."

Some conference attendees were shocked to hear about UNFI's illegal behavior. In 2012, the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) reported that UNFI engaged in serious violations of workers' rights, including threatening violence against mostly immigrant workers. The ILRF also found that UNFI violated workers' rights in Auburn, Wash., when it threatened to permanently replace them.

In March, former UNFI workers testified at a hearing held by the Southern California Commission on a Sustainable Supply Chain.

"It's time for UNFI to stop the bullying and stop the intimidation," Vairma said.