

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.



TANKHAUL News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Keith Gleason, Division Director



ACTION AT AIRGAS

Airgas Drivers in Boston Benefit From First Contract

There's been lots of activity at Airgas lately. In August, a unit of Airgas workers joined Local 282 in Islandia, N.Y., and the Teamsters Union led a shareholder action against the company.

Drivers, plant operators and fillers at the Airgas facility in Islandia voted to join Local 282. The successful effort was the culmination of hard work by the organizing committee and business agent Mike Bourgal.

"Nationwide, this company has recently changed their attitude toward their hardworking, loyal workforce and this vote is an example of what happens when employers disrespect their employees," said Keith Gleason, Director of the Tankhaul Division.

"These workers recognized the only path to dignity, respect and security on the job was to join the 40 other bargaining units represented by the Teamsters at Airgas facilities," Bourgal said.

Shareholder Meeting

Also in August, a delegation of Teamster leaders and workers traveled to the Airgas shareholder meeting and made waves.

A majority, 53 percent, of Airgas shareholders voting in the director elections withheld support from three independent board members standing for re-election. Excluding the shares held by board members and executive officers, the "no" vote was 62 percent of shares cast, or more than 51 percent of total outstanding shares.

"Airgas investors have lost confidence in the leadership of this company," said Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a long-term Airgas shareholder and representative of Airgas employees throughout the U.S. "These directors should resign from the board immediately to make way for new directors who will be responsive and accountable

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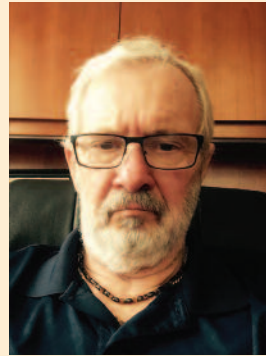
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TANKHAUL CONTRACTS

The job stability that results from Teamster contracts is an example of why more

tankhaul workers should become Teamsters. Your tankhaul co-workers who are union enjoy greater pay and better benefits than your nonunion counterparts, but those perks come from a union contract.



From job security to health insurance, Teamster contracts offer the most solid guarantees around and ensure a high quality of life for our members. That is why it is imperative that we continue our efforts to organize more members, to bargain and enforce great contracts.

Some think that because the economy is slow, organizing new members will be a hard goal to achieve. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Nonunion workers suffer greater losses and more hardships in slow economies than their union counterparts. This makes organizing new members crucial to the survival of our union.

The strength of the union is dependent upon its members. I ask Tankhaul Division Teamsters everywhere to become actively involved in their local unions by attending meetings, participating in organizing drives or helping to build membership on a local level.

With your help we can make 2016 a great year for tankhaul workers across America.

ACTION AT AIRGAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the shareholders they are elected to represent.”

In a July 2015 letter to Airgas shareholders, Hall urged investors to withhold support from three independent directors for failing to de-stagger the company’s board despite strong majority support for the reform three years running.

The three directors targeted—James Hovey, Paula Sneed and David Stout—received only 47 percent support in the uncontested election. Significant support was also withheld from Airgas CEO Michael Molinini, who received 60 percent support.

Because Airgas does not require majority support in uncontested director elections, each board member has been re-elected.

Outside the shareholder meeting in Philadelphia, Teamsters protested the company’s deteriorating labor relations and discriminatory pay practices, warning that an escalating labor dispute could lead to service disruptions for hospitals and other health care providers across the country.

Teamsters also questioned the company about these concerns inside the annual meeting.

“It’s time for change at Airgas,” Hall said. “This board and management team has turned a deaf ear to the concerns of investors and workers long enough.”

Airgas Inc., headquartered in Radnor, Pa., is the largest U.S. distributor of industrial, medical and specialty gases, employing more than 16,000 workers.



Labor Department Awards Teamsters \$4.6 Million Training Grant

Certified Apprenticeship Programs and
Student Recruitment Integral to Program

The Teamsters Safety and Health Department has been awarded a \$4.6 million grant by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to establish apprenticeship programs for workers in the trucking industry. The grant will be awarded over a five-year funding cycle.

The DOL published a Notice of Funding Opportunity in the fall of 2014 in an effort to develop a trained

workforce in industries that are deemed critical to the U.S. economy and have significant demand for or shortages of qualified workers. It stipulated that lead applicants must qualify as 501(c)5 non-profit organizations and have partners including at least three employers, from a small selection of companies, three of which are signatory to Teamster contracts.

“The Teamsters are at the forefront

of worker training and this new grant from the Labor Department will enable workers to get the skills that employers seek,” said James P. Hoffa, Teamsters General President.

In addition to creating certified apprenticeship programs, the grant funding must be used to develop qualified instructors and provide training to recent high school graduates, incumbent Teamster members who are transitioning from non-driving transportation jobs to jobs that require Class A or Class B Commercial Driver’s Licenses, and military personnel who are transitioning to civilian life. Student recruitment will be conducted at high schools and vocational schools, community-based organizations that support underserved communities, Teamster local unions and select military bases.

“We are honored to accept this grant from the Department of Labor,” said LaMont Byrd, Director of the Teamsters Safety and Health Department. “We have wanted to focus on training of apprentices for some time and this award will allow us to do just that. Many young people just starting their careers need professional training and guidance – both of which will be available through the qualified Teamster instructors who will implement the program.”

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