

FAIR TRADE

WHEREAS, the Teamsters is North America's Supply Chain Union, representing over 200,000 workers engaged in manufacturing and tens of thousands of other workers involved in the warehousing and distribution of goods and services that flow into global supply chains, often transported by Teamster members on the rails and the roadways, at the ports and air cargo hubs, throughout the US and Canada; and therefore, we have a large and unique stake in trade policy reform; and

WHEREAS, so called "free trade" deals in the NAFTA - WTO model resulted in over 4 million lost jobs and the degradation of international human rights and global environmental standards; and

WHEREAS, robust enforcement against trading partners that violate international trade law, environmental standards and workers' rights is essential to level the playing field and protect our members' livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of NAFTA, the U.S. trade deficit has increased to nearly \$700 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Teamsters opposed NAFTA and worked closely with coalition allies and highway safety advocates during its renegotiation to resolve the legacy issue of cross-border trucking by including a new trade remedy to address material harm to the trucking industry created by unsafe Mexican-domiciled carriers on American highways, which was codified in the USMCA; and

WHEREAS, the Teamsters and other unions worked closely with our congressional fair trade champions to replace the flawed and failed NAFTA labor side agreement with a new Chapter in the USMCA that includes innovative and progressive enforcement mechanisms to protect all workers' rights to form independent unions; and

WHEREAS, future trade policies must focus on job creation in the U.S. based on a new framework for negotiating and ratifying trade agreements that replaces the flawed and failed "Fast Track" approach and, rather, respects the exclusive constitutional authority of Congress to make trade policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED at this 30th International Convention that it is a moral and economic imperative that our governments commit to Fair Trade policies that prioritize working families' wages and benefits and do not incentivize outsourcing and off-shoring of good union jobs in manufacturing or the service sector; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters will continue to fight and to lobby against any and all trade agreements that do not protect workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively.