

A Green New Deal Must Have Strong Labor and Community Provisions

WHEREAS, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined humanity has twelve years to act to avert the worst effects of a climate catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses an immediate and long-term threat to all working people, our communities and our economic security; and

WHEREAS, workers, communities of color and low-income people suffer disproportionately from environmental degradation and climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change is already harming working families and vulnerable populations through extreme hurricanes, wildfire, drought and flooding, increased stress on the agricultural sector, health impacts like heat stroke and the spread of infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Hurricane Harvey, on August 25, 2017, hit a large area of Texas and the surrounding region, caused at least 82 deaths, over \$125 billion dollars in property damage, damaged 204,000 homes, attributable in part to climate change; and

WHEREAS, 37,000 Texans has to reside in shelters throughout the recovery process and 783,000 Texans registered for FEMA assistance

WHEREAS, without taking concrete action now to address the climate crisis, the well-being and economic future of generations of people will be severely and irreversibly jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, young climate activists and some members of Congress have successfully put the Green New Deal at the center of national discussion about how to address both the climate crisis and our historic level of economic inequality; and

WHEREAS, if climate action is to address inequality, the labor movement must be at the center of shaping climate policies to include just transition for workers, expand collective bargaining rights and create green union careers, particularly in disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, workers in existing jobs, including firefighters, nurses, construction workers, public transit workers, many in the public sector, and many more are already mitigating the health and environmental effects of climate change, preparing our infrastructure for sea level rise, and advancing Texas' clean energy economy through a variety of ways; and

WHEREAS, many union members work in sectors, such as construction, transportation, energy, agriculture, manufacturing and production, that will be directly impacted by transitioning to lower greenhouse gas emissions limits; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the State Building and Construction Trades Council and the AFL-CIO, over 90 cities, more than 10 counties, and two states have adopted a goal of 100% renewable and zero-carbon electricity, many of which have demonstrated that clean energy industries can create good, middle-class jobs when linked with collective bargaining agreements; and

WHEREAS, many labor unions, and organizations and community allies have passed resolutions and/or supported bold policies to address the climate crisis and other pressing environmental issues

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Austin Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, supports a Green New Deal that expands collective bargaining and ensures the creation of union jobs through card check neutrality agreements, prevailing wages, project labor agreements, enacting

the provisions of the Employee Free Choice Act and requiring direct partnerships with joint labor-management apprenticeship programs; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Austin Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, supports a Green New Deal prioritizing projects, union career opportunities and investments in working-class, low-income and communities of color historically and disproportionality impacted by pollution, high unemployment, poverty and environmental injustice; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Austin Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, supports a Green New Deal that includes a strong and binding commitment on all Just Transition issues for workers and communities impacted by the transitioning economy; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Austin Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will advocate for a Green New Deal in concert with environmental and community partners that support the above provisions.