

## **UPTe-CWA 9119 Resolution in Support of Climate Policies and Legislation with Strong Labor Provisions**

WHEREAS, on 8/9/2021 the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported humanity has less than 12 years to act to avert the worst effects of a climate catastrophe that poses an immediate and long-term threat to the well-being and economic future of all working people and our communities; and

WHEREAS, workers, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and low-income people suffer disproportionately from environmental degradation and extreme weather events like hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, and floods that contribute to heat stroke, air pollution, and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, there has been an accelerating national push for bold policy initiatives to effectively address the two pressing issues of our age—historic economic inequality and climate change; and

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

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

WHEREAS, with the support of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, AFL-CIO, California has adopted a goal of 100% renewable and zero-carbon electricity and has demonstrated that clean energy industries can create good, middle-class jobs when linked with collective bargaining agreements; economist Robert Pollin's [2021 report](#) "Program for Economic Recovery and Clean Energy Transition in CA" documents a net gain of 1 million jobs through 2030 that will result from an equitable transition specifically for oil and gas workers and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the American Federation of Teachers, the Service Employees International Union, the California Nurses Association, Communications Workers of America, the Labor Network for Sustainability, California Labor for Climate Jobs, and other labor organizations have passed resolutions and/or supported bold policies to address the climate crisis and other pressing environmental and social issues,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, UPTe-CWA 9119 calls for solutions to the climate crisis at all levels of government that must include strong labor standards to prevent outsourcing and ensure union jobs with family-supporting wages and good benefits (including healthcare, paid leave, and pensions)—such as prevailing wages, project labor agreements, establishment of card-check neutrality agreements, direct partnerships with joint labor-management apprenticeship programs, and legislation protecting the right to organize unions and bargain collectively.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UPTE-CWA 9119 will work for a fair and equitable transition for workers impacted by a transitioning economy that must include fully funded disaster benefits programs for displaced coal, oil, and gas workers (including aviation and automobile industry workers) and their communities, wage replacement/wage insurance, pension guarantees and severance packages, healthcare benefits, retraining opportunities with costs covered, peer counseling, and relocation assistance; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UPTE-CWA 9119 will lobby for substantial investments in the renewable energy sector with provisions for strong labor standards, and for investment in public infrastructure and services, including expanding infrastructure and access to transportation, clean water, wastewater services, universal broadband, affordable housing, and education; large-scale building electrification; workforce development for public and private sector workers in critical infrastructure; disaster preparedness; and regenerative agricultural practices (establishing universal healthcare will further protect worker and community health from the dangers of climate change, and will facilitate equitable transition to jobs in the new economy); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UPTE-CWA 9119 will demand access to economic opportunities through targeted and local hire provisions for working-class, low-income, and BIPOC communities that have disproportionately suffered the impacts of pollution, high unemployment, poverty, and racism; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UPTE-CWA 9119 will work to mobilize state and federal resources and demand adequate public procurement provisions and detailed and feasible funding mechanisms that prioritize strong labor standards and "Buy local/Buy Union"; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UPTE-CWA 9119 will bring the climate concerns of our members to the bargaining table when negotiating our next contracts, including concerns around remote work and workplace health; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UPTE-CWA 9119 will advocate in coalition with our labor siblings and our environmental justice and community partners for climate policies with these strong labor provisions; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UPTE-CWA 9119 will forward this resolution to the UC Union Coalition, CWA District 9, CWA National Executive Board, our local AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils, California Federation of Labor, and national AFL-CIO for their consideration.

Respectfully submitted by:

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