

RESOLUTION NO. 13

Ban Sweatshops – Workers Have Rights

Trade policy in the United States has largely failed workers, leaving the American people uneasy about the global economy and concerned about the rush of jobs that have departed this country.

Across the world, workers are not seeing the promised benefits of trade. The so-called global race to the bottom finds corporations searching the world for areas where they can pay the lowest wages and operate with the least amount of worker protection and environmental laws. Women and children are often disproportionately impacted by these corporations that put profits over people.

These sweatshop-produced goods routinely enter our markets. U.S. consumers have no way of knowing if they are supporting these conditions or not. Businesses utilizing decent working standards find themselves at a competitive disadvantage.

The Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act addresses the problem of sweatshop goods by prohibiting products made under these conditions to enter the U.S. market, thereby providing an incentive for corporations around the globe to improve their workplaces. Sweatshop conditions are those that violate core labor standards, including being able to organize, bargain collectively, and reject forced or child labor.

This legislation offers a positive, proactive alternative to our current global economy that is based on respect for human, women's and worker's rights. It also gives working Americans a powerful vehicle to launch a massive popular education, outreach and mobilization campaign to take back our economy. As of February 2009, all bills comprising the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act have died in committee and thus have not become law.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

CLUW will seek legislative relief to bring justice to workers in the global economy and aggressively push for the passage of Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act in the United States;

CLUW will continue to educate its members on human rights and sweatshop produced goods and partner with organizations seeking an end to global worker injustice;

CLUW will continue to help workers across the globe attain the benefits of collective bargaining.