



Connecticut State Council of Machinists

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Connecticut Must Pursue An Aggressive Program to Address Climate Change While Creating New Jobs; Labor Needs to Be Part of the Process

WHEREAS, climate change threatens the lives and livelihoods of working people in Connecticut, the United States, and the world; and

WHEREAS, Labor is compelled to take a leading role in addressing this local, national, and global threat; and

WHEREAS,

- Three years ago the Connecticut AFL-CIO launched the *Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs*, an innovative partnership with Connecticut's labor, environmental, and religious groups, which advocates for public policies that address urgent concerns about climate change while creating good-paying jobs right here in our state, and
- The Roundtable has successfully encouraged the state of Connecticut to establish a new Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3), which is now at work drawing up a new climate change action plan to meet the state's official target of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2001 levels by 2050, and
- The Roundtable has successfully worked with labor, environmental, religious, consumer, and other constituencies to fight for state energy policies that create jobs and protect the climate, including a reduction in the residential fixed charge for electric distribution by the state's utilities; and

WHEREAS,

- The Labor Network for Sustainability (LNS), in collaboration with the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, is releasing a report this fall laying out a plan to realize our climate protection goals while creating more jobs with lower energy costs than current state plans, and
- The LNS Report will recommend:
 - Frequent benchmarks to ensure that greenhouse gas reductions stay on track;
 - A just transition to high energy efficiency and renewable energy sources like wind and solar in a manner that protects the livelihoods and union rights of all workers;
 - Aggressive investments in a public transit system that allows easy movement among the state's main centers of employment, residence, and commerce, while

- replacing our gas engine cars and trucks with alternative vehicles powered by electricity and fuel cells;
- Good, stable jobs in a growing climate protection sector: manufacturing jobs, jobs for those who have been marginalized in the current labor market, and jobs for skilled workers in the construction trades, all with union representation or a neutral path to organizing;
 - Sustained orderly development to prevent devastating boom-and-bust cycles for both workers and vendors; and
 - Protection for all workers and communities that may be adversely affected by climate policies; so

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we endorse the ongoing work of the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, and pledge our continued participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the work of the Governor's Council on Climate Change to realize Connecticut's climate protection targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the widest discussion and consideration of the recommendations of the upcoming report on climate and jobs of the Labor Network for Sustainability and the CT Roundtable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Governor's Council on Climate Change to develop and implement such a detailed jobs plan as part of their comprehensive climate change action plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we re-affirm and remind all parties that workers and their families are important stakeholders on the issue of climate change. The Governor's Council on Climate Change must ensure that labor unions are fully represented in climate policy deliberations.

Submitted by: John Harrity, President, Connecticut State Council of Machinists

**APPROVED by the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of the CT AFL-CIO
October 30, 2015**

For more information about the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs and the report "Connecticut's Clean Energy Future: Climate goals and employment benefits", visit:

www.CTClimateandJobs.org