

Resolution on Supporting Pro-Worker, Green Industrial Policies

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Whereas, climate change is one of the defining issues of our time, is an existential threat to everyone on our planet, and is already impacting the lives and communities of UAW members;

Whereas, climate change intersects with other major problems that UAW members face, such as economic and racial inequality;

Whereas, the anticipated effects of unchecked climate change would lead to millions of lost working hours and an estimated loss of 80 million jobs globally¹;

Whereas, UAW has a longstanding history of supporting the national movement for environmental protections, including being one of the largest and earliest supporters of Earth Day²;

Whereas, UAW President Walter Reuther drew the connection between workers' rights and the environment, asking, "What good is another week's vacation if the lake you used to go to is polluted and you can't swim in it and your kids can't play in it?";

Whereas, we can't afford to let private companies dictate what is and isn't possible based on what's best for their bottom line. Rather, the state must stand ready to finance and build the zero-emission technologies we need to meet our climate goals and create the high-quality union jobs our communities need to thrive;

Whereas, Industrial policy refers to coordinated government action to proactively shape what goods and services an economy produces, how they are produced, and how they are distributed;

Whereas, UAW Region 6 released a report — "Organize, Industrialize, Decarbonize"³ — which argues for a pro-worker, green industrial policy for California which could also be expanded across the country. This report connects the dots between job quality,

¹ <https://globalnews.ca/news/5449602/climate-change-un-jobs-heat/>

² <https://uaw.org/good-jobs-healthy-planet/>

³ <https://www.uawregion6.org/organize-industrialize-decarbonize>

equity, and decarbonization, and outlines concrete strategies to implement a green industrial policy for a just transition;

Whereas, the transition to increased reliance on renewable energy technologies presents an opportunity to create millions of new good, union jobs across industries represented by UAW;

And whereas, the Trump administration has rolled back green industrial policies, eliminating consumer subsidies for electric vehicles and cancelling Inflation Reduction Act investment in green energy production. These destructive actions have resulted in layoffs and job losses affecting tens of thousands of UAW members and other workers in the green energy economy; therefore, be it

Resolved, that UAW calls on our elected local, state, and federal officials to support pro-worker, green industrial policies that catalyze a virtuous cycle of productive investment, rising wages, market growth, and job stability;

Be it further resolved, that in order to accomplish these objectives, the UAW will support state efforts to: 1) Finance public and private investment in strategic decarbonization industries, 2) Condition financing, subsidies, and procurement on in-state production, labor rights protections, targeted hiring of dislocated workers, community benefits, and strict environmental compliance, 3) Subsidize working class households' spending on decarbonization technologies and rein in energy costs, 4) Procure and produce decarbonization technologies where necessary to realize economies of scale and stabilize prices, and 5) Levy progressive taxes to cover new and ongoing funding needs;

Be it further resolved, that the UAW will oppose cynical efforts by the Trump administration and other elected officials to pit the working class against the environment. The UAW will join with other unions, environmental, and community organizations to oppose all attempts to undermine pro-worker, green industrial policies.

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