UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

Douglas J. McCarron
General President

Statement of United Brotherhood of Carpenters
General President Douglas J. McCarron
In Response to AFL-CIO Resolution 70

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters believes that the men and women working in the carpentry trades, or any trade within the industry, are best represented by the organization with the knowledge, resources, and commitment to serve their needs. That means giving workers the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families through the development, advancement, and exercise of their skills.

Our commitment to the interests of our members is demonstrated by the targeted and effective organizing efforts that have regained market share from San Diego to Miami, from Phoenix to Atlanta.

It can be seen in our annual expenditure of more than $175 million for the most up-to-date craft training in the industry delivered at more than 225 training centers in the United States and Canada.

We took difficult steps to focus on the interests of the members by reorganizing our union to reflect the industry our members work in, instead of the industry our founders knew. Instead of staffing a Washington bureaucracy, we put hundreds of organizers in the field. We merged local health and welfare funds into regional funds to reduce benefit costs, increase bargaining power, and save tens of millions of the members' hard-earned dollars.

The AFL-CIO resolution is a solution in search of a problem. In the field, construction projects are manned and completed in a timely fashion with all of the trades working together.

We firmly believe that the energies of the Building and Construction Trades unions should first be directed to organizing the craft workers in the markets they used to represent, before they divert their members' hard-earned dues in efforts to reach out to workers they lack the knowledge to represent and the skills or resources to train.

Finally, it is worth remembering that the United Brotherhood of Carpenters was barred from membership in the Building and Construction Trades Department not because of issues among the Trades but at the direction of the AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO once again mistakes bureaucratic process for product. The Carpenters' Organizing Committee exists. It is, was, and always will be the very heart of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and requires no charter stronger than the interest of the men and women in the industry.

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