

## **Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO**

John Samuelsen International President

Alex Garcia International Executive Vice President Jerome Lafragola International Secretary-Treasurer

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## "AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President United States of America

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of more than 155,000 members of the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), I convey our union's endorsement for your re-election to the office of President of the United States. As President, you have delivered on promises made, you have led the most pro-union administration of my lifetime, and you have enabled an economic recovery from the pandemic that has truly benefited working families.

Your record on issues important to us speaks for itself. During your Presidency, you have used the levers of federal policy and investment to focus on the economic needs and security of TWU members and all working people. The Bipartisan Infrastructure legislation you negotiated delivered more than \$100 billion in new federal funding for transit and railroad workers – the largest budget increase for either industry in our nation's history. Airline, transit, and Amtrak workers collectively received an additional \$47 billion along with worker employment protections that prevented furloughs or degradations in pay as part of the American Rescue Plan. Airline workers – who were victims of furlough prior to the the law's enactment – were returned to work with full back pay. These worker payroll protections are still in place at many of our transit properties today. Beyond mere money, these investments were also accompanied by significant policy changes which have empowered workers and are paving the way for even more gains through the collective bargaining process.

As President, you have led an administration unafraid of making historic changes to the way our government does business. Anti-worker mega-transactions, like JetBlue's attempted hostile acquisition of Spirit Airlines, have been halted using powers left dormant for decades. The true spirit of labor protection standards and laws, like our transit worker protections, have come alive again forcing both red and blue states to elevate rather than destroy public sector jobs. You have made it clear that technological innovations like autonomous vehicles and advanced air mobility transportation models are only beneficial in so far as they create and preserve highquality jobs and increase safety. The TWU has an incredibly demographically and ethnically diverse membership. From tens of thousands of airline workers in cities extending from Tulsa, Honolulu, and Dallas to transit workers in Philadelphia, Miami, and Omaha, to railroad workers in Cleveland , Chicago, and Boston. Across our Union we are engaged in continual, authentic dialogue with our members regarding the issues facing working people in America. The TWU believes it is critical for you to continue prioritizing economic growth, investments in transportation, and the creation and retention of good-paying, union jobs. These are the ties that bind TWU members together across our incredible nation and herein lies the potential to bring working people together to support your candidacy. Economic security is the unifying focus from whence we send forth our endorsement for your re-election to the office of President of the United States of America.

Protecting and advancing workers has been the goal of years-running campaigns led by the Transport Workers Union. You are the first President in my lifetime, in fact in generations, who has governed in a manner which is complimentary to our efforts. You've opened up direct access to all levels of the federal government and welcomed trade union input into decisions and policymaking. This has led to lasting changes for working people and to the way our country is governed. In just a few years, you have ensured that the voice of American transportation workers will be echoing long into the future.

Sincerely,

John Samuelsen International President