

Resolution: Support U.S. Postal Workers; Boycott Staples

Executive Council, California Federation of Teachers

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service has a no-bid, sweetheart deal with the big-box chain Staples to operate postal counters in more than 80 stores in 4 states, including California;

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service has plans to expand this operation to more than 1,500 Staples store across the United States;

Whereas, these postal counters are staffed by low-wage, high-turnover employees with little training and no credentials to handle U.S. mail;

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service and Staples are refusing to staff the postal counters with unionized, uniformed U.S. Postal Service employees who have the training and experience to properly handle U.S. mail, and who have sworn an oath to uphold the highest standards of public service;

Whereas, non-union "postal" jobs at Staples will inevitably replace living-wage, union jobs of U.S. Postal Service employees;

Whereas, current legislation in the U.S. Congress would make it easier to close U.S. Post offices;

Whereas, California communities such as the city of Berkeley have already experienced disruption and controversy associated with the sale of U.S. post office facilities;

Whereas, consumers are increasingly concerned about identity theft at large retail chains and privatizing the handling of U.S. mail will jeopardize the sanctity and security of the mail;

Whereas, instead of offering lower quality service and selling off public assets, the U.S. Postal Service can and should use its unmatched nationwide network of people and facilities to better serve the public with expanded hours and new services, such as low-cost banking, which could aid millions of low-income consumers;

Whereas, California teachers care about public service, protecting good-paying jobs and maintaining universal, affordable mail services for the U.S. public;

Whereas, the California Federation of Teachers opposes privatization of public services in schools, colleges and universities and other public institutions;

Whereas, the California Federation of Teachers and postal employees are fighting a common battle against privatization, and

Whereas, many California teachers and other school employees frequently purchase school supplies, office supplies, and other products sold at Staples Stores;

Therefore be it resolved that:

- The California Federation of Teachers supports the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) in its efforts to protect good-paying jobs and its insistence on the highest possible standards of customer service;
- Be it further resolved that the California Federation of Teachers opposes efforts by the U.S. Postal Service to privatize operations and to sell off valuable public assets;
- Be it further resolved that members of the California Federation of Teachers, along with friends, colleagues and family members, are urged to no longer shop at Staples stores until further notice;
- Be it further resolved that the California Federation of Teachers will submit and advocate at the upcoming national American Federation of Teachers convention to be held this July in Los Angeles, California for a boycott of Staples to begin during the back-to-school period this summer;

- Be it finally resolved that this call to boycott Staples will be communicated immediately to members of the California Federation of Teachers, to our local unions, and to our sister unions and to the news media.

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