



MA AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention September 25-27, 2019

Resolution on Labor and the Environment

WHEREAS, we know that the effects of climate change will disproportionately affect the lives of poor and working people rather than the billionaires and special interests most responsible for its creation; and

WHEREAS, working people from all unions and sectors of the economy have a stake in the development of a clean energy economy that can both arrest the crisis of climate change and build an economy based on the foundation of a strong labor movement with family supporting wages, benefits and shared prosperity for all; and

WHEREAS, we know that there are thousands of union members in Massachusetts whose jobs are fossil-fuel based and whose families are reliant on their jobs; and

WHEREAS, green innovations and rebuilding our public infrastructure in more sustainable ways have the potential to create tens of thousands of new jobs in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the labor movement must be at the center of shaping climate policies to ensure there will be just transition for workers who may be displaced and that new green jobs created are union jobs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts AFL-CIO will create a Green Jobs and Just Transition Committee to make sure that the entire MA Labor Movement has a seat at the table in City Halls and at the State House so that any law that strengthens environmental protections treats the twin crises of climate change and economic inequality as urgent and severe issues that must be addressed together in a bold, ambitious and urgent way; and

RESOLVED, that this Green Jobs and Just Transition Committee shall make sure all unions whose membership is directly affected by the environmentally-driven changes to our economy are represented and to always strive for consensus so that the voice of the MA AFL-CIO is one that truly represents all of its Labor affiliates in the state, and be it finally

RESOLVED, the Green Jobs and Just Transition Committee shall report back on the Committee's success at the 2020 Gompers-Murray-Meany Educational Conference and subsequent conferences and conventions hosted by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Respectfully submitted,

President Steven A. Tolman and Secretary-Treasurer Lou Mandarin