

"An Injury To One Is An Injury To All"

Pennsylvania Federation

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Office of the General Chairman
Jed Dodd

February 3, 2010

To: Rail Union Officers and Activists

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Re: Wars and Occupations in Afghanistan and Iraq

The wars and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq are abominations paid for with working-class blood and working-class tax dollars. The purpose of these wars are to expand global corporate domination, enrich the war profiteers with public tax dollars at the expense of badly needed domestic programs like health care, public transportation programs and other job creating infrastructure programs, and to exploit and conquer the natural resources and strategic locations of these two countries for the benefit of the world's ruling elites.

As elected leaders in a working-class organization, we have a duty and an obligation to demonstrate our opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We need to show solidarity with the working people of these countries and let them know that the actions of our government are opposed by the democratic institutions of American workers. History will demonstrate that these wars and occupations did not defeat terrorism and in fact helped to sustain the terrorist movements. However, one result of these conflicts is the shredding of some basic constitutional rights we established when we formed the United States of America. When you are asked about what you did while these atrocities occurred do you want to say, "I said nothing and did nothing," or do you want to say, "I stood up, opposed these illegal and unjust actions in every way that I could?"

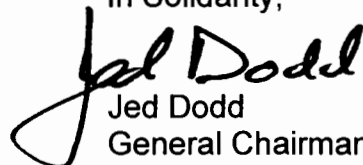
Many Unions, including the National AFL-CIO, several large International Unions and many State and City Labor Federations, are on record opposing the war and occupation of Iraq. It is now time we also take a similar stand on the war and occupation of Afghanistan.

Our Federation belongs to US Labor Against the War which is an umbrella organization of several hundred union organizations opposed to the war in Iraq. US Labor Against the War recently adopted a resolution in opposition to the war and occupation in Afghanistan. Attached is the resolution the Pennsylvania Federation Joint Protective Board which opposes the wars and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. This resolution is based upon the resolution recently enacted at the leadership assembly of US Labor Against the War.

We have enclosed a newsletter called "Lowdown" from October 2009 (before the escalation) which describes the reasons we should not be involved in a civil war in Afghanistan. We would also like to direct you to the website of US Labor Against the War which is <http://www.uslaboragainstwar.org/> which has more information and you can watch a new dvd titled, "Why Are We in Afghanistan?" Please join us and show opposition to the further waste of lives and money by doing the following:

1. Help support a similar resolution at the National Division meeting coming up this year;
2. Have your Joint Protective Board pass a similar resolution;
3. Affiliate your Joint Protective Board with US Labor Against the War;
4. Engage in an educational campaign in your local area to bring about awareness of this issue and galvanize opposition to our continued involvement, in any way, in the wars and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

History will not blame the working people of America for these wars, but if we stand silent and do nothing it will judge us. If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Solidarity,

Jed Dodd
General Chairman