



**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

October 16, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Everywhere in America there is evidence of the failed policies of the last eight years. Four million Americans have lost their jobs — 600,000 this year. The struggle of working families and the crash of the stock market are a final verdict on the Bush administration.

But despite all of this hardship I have seen solidarity among members of our union that I have never seen before. By November 4, more than 10,000 Steelworkers will have volunteered their time to help elect Barack Obama to the presidency, and it is a credit to you for doing what is right on behalf of your family.

Why have so many of you stepped forth and stood up in support of Barack Obama? I believe it's because he's the most pro-worker nominee we've seen in decades. Senator Obama started his life with humble beginnings. As the son of a single mother who struggled to put food on the table and make ends meet, Barack has been no stranger to economic hardship.

Through hard work and due diligence, Barack took out loans and worked his way through college. He graduated at the top of his class and was the president of the Harvard Law Review. After he graduated he could have made millions on Wall Street or as a lawyer. But instead he chose to work alongside Chicago Steelworkers who had lost their jobs. And, those union members made an impression on him. They are the real reason Barack Obama chose to go into politics.

For seven years in the Illinois state senate and four years as a U.S. senator, he worked diligently to ensure that working families could get ahead. Throughout his elected years he has established a 98% pro-worker voting record. He has authored and co-sponsored important legislation such as the Fair Currency Act of 2007 (a bill designed to stop China's currency manipulation), the Anti-Sweatshop Bill (a bill that would ban the import of goods made in foreign countries in sweatshop conditions), the Lead Free Toys Act, and the Employee Free Choice Act (a bill that will make it harder to intimidate workers of our competitors when we try to organize them).

Barack Obama will continue to stand up for working people and has set forth a plan to jumpstart the American economy. Senator Obama said as recently as October 13, 2008

that, **“We can't wait to help workers and families and communities who are struggling right now... We need to pass an economic rescue plan for the middle class and we need to do it now.... It's a plan that begins with one word that's on everyone's mind, and it's spelled J-O-B-S.”**

Obama's plan consists of:

- **Tax cuts for 95% of Americans (those earning less than \$250,000);**
- Investment to create **five million new jobs** in Green Energy production;
- **Rewards to companies that create jobs in America**, and elimination of the loopholes that reward companies that take American jobs overseas;
- **Protection of Social Security** so that Americans can retire with dignity, and elimination of income taxes for senior citizens who make less than \$50,000 a year;
- Fighting back against lobbyists and special interest groups so that companies and CEO's are kept **accountable to the workers that have made them billions.**

The choice in this election is clearer than ever before:

- A candidate who is no stranger to financial struggle or one who does not know how many houses he has.
- A candidate with a 98% pro-worker union voting record or one with 15%.
- A candidate who wants to change our job-destroying trade policies or one who wants to continue them.
- A candidate who wants to make it cheaper for companies to offer health care benefits or one who will tax those benefits.
- A candidate who wants to strengthen workers' rights to organize or one who does not.
- A candidate who wants to protect Social Security or one who wants to privatize it so that you can depend on the stock market for your retirement security.

We as union members must stand in solidarity and elect Barack Obama as President. Together we can put an end to the failed policies of the Bush administration so that the interests of working families come first!

Our current economic crisis is severe. We are in a recession and it is expected to worsen. We need someone who will put the interests of workers first. We need a new Franklin Roosevelt, not a Herbert Hoover.

In solidarity,



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