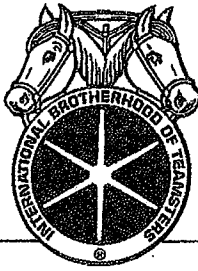


Local Union No. 813

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June 22, 2016

Testimony of Plinio Cruz, Organizer, Teamsters Local 813, in support of Resolution number 741.

The Teamsters Union historically and unequivocally supports the right to organize, a living wage and fair standards for every worker in New York State, the country and around the globe. In fact, New York led the charge in the "Fight for \$15" and is aggressive in pursuing unscrupulous employers that exploit our laws.

In addition, the Teamsters work in solidarity with International Labor Unions including the ILO, the International Transportation Federation (ITF) and remains allies in the fight for labor rights throughout the world. The International Labor Organization (ILO) of the United Nations works to ensure decent employment opportunities internationally. By working on key issues such as youth employment, sustainable development, and social protection, the ILO strengthens international dialogue on labor issues.

Most recently the Teamsters have been fighting for worker's rights in the global food chain and with the help of our International partners we are making strides to ensure that workers are not exploited and their labor used to our benefit.

In an article written by Danielle Nierenberg in the Huffington Post, she cites:

The food system employs millions of laborers around the world to pick, package, transport, deliver, and cook our food every day. Of the 3 billion workers in the world's labor force, about 40 percent are employed in agriculture alone, according to the International Labor Organization of the United Nations (ILO).

And workers in the middle of food supply chains — truckers, ranchers, packers, and factory workers — are often politically invisible, facing difficult working conditions and low wages across the globe.

*Yet these workers' hands feed the entire world every single day.
(http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/21-organizations-fighting_b_8594438.html)*

Right now there are two bills in Albany requiring "every procurement contract entered into by a state agency to contain a statement from the contractor that no forced labor was used."

The Teamsters support this Councilmember Miller. And we support this resolution that will ensure that any state contract will not allow the use of forced or child labor.

The Teamsters want to be on record now and when session begins next fall, as supporting these very important bills in Albany.

Thank you.

RWDSU

Stuart Appelbaum, *President*
Jack C. Wurm, Jr., *Secretary-Treasurer*
Joseph Dorismond, *Recorder*
Gemma de Leon, *Executive Vice President*

Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

Testimony by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU), UFCW

to the New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor

HEARING ON CITY RESOLUTION 741

June 22, 2016

On behalf of President Stuart Appelbaum and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, we submit written testimony in support of Resolution 741, calling on the New York State to pass and sign A.2486/S.5479, which requires every state procurement contract to contain a statement from the contractor affirming that no forced labor was used.

The RWDSU represents 40,000 workers in New York State and 100,000 workers nationwide. RWDSU members work in retail, food processing, and other low-wage sectors. Our union is deeply involved in progressive activism and movements for economic and social justice. RWDSU is committed to raising job standards across industries and occupations.

Through the passage of A.2486/S.5479, New York State has the opportunity to codify its long-held human rights values by clearly setting guidelines within its agencies that will assert its stance on the humane treatment of all workers. The New York State Department of Labor has aggressively sought to end forced labor within its boundaries, and has made efforts to reach vulnerable communities to raise awareness of workers' rights and learn how to access its services. That said, the practice of forced labor exists within our country and throughout the world.

The practice of forced labor is hurtful to our communities, particularly low wage and immigrant communities. It is also hurtful to our economy and to law-abiding contractors and companies that are being undercut by those who violate international human and labor rights. Our state should not benefit or profit from modern day slavery, even if doing so unknowingly. The state should also equip itself with the information needed to make those decisions and take necessary steps to penalize those who perjure themselves through the bidding process. By enacting A.2486/S.5479, the state is taking a proactive step towards ensuring its agencies are doing business with law-abiding contractors who hold similar values regarding the humane treatment of its workforce.

Our State should not do business with contractors who supply foreign made equipment, materials and supplies that have been produced in whole or in part by forced labor, convict labor or indentured servitude.

We strongly support City Resolution 741 calling for the passage of A.2486/S.5479.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 741 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/22/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

PIINIOCRUZ

Address:

BROOKLYN, NY

I represent:

TEAMSTERS Local 813

Address:

45-19 COURT SQUARE LIC, NY

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆