

# NATIONAL JOBS FOR ALL COALITION

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRIVE FOR DECENT WORK

**WHEREAS**, millions of people in the United States are unemployed in good times as well as bad, and many more work without living wages, comprehensive health insurance and retirement benefits;

**WHEREAS**, the official unemployment rate leaves out the “hidden unemployed--who want full-time work but are forced to work part-time or who want a job but are not currently looking for reasons such as lack of child care or transportation.

**WHEREAS**, in October 2008, an estimated 10.1 million workers were officially unemployed (6.5%), an additional 11.7 million were “hidden unemployed,” bringing the actual jobless rate to roughly 14%.

**WHEREAS**, the unemployment rate in [state or locality] has risen to \_\_\_ percent; [see Local Area Unemployment Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>]

**WHEREAS**, millions more workers in the United States work full-time, year-round, yet earn less than the official poverty level, and do not earn a wage high enough to support the basic costs of living;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to its chronic deficit of decent jobs, the United States also suffers a chronic deficit of public investment in vital human and physical resources, including affordable housing, child care, elder care, health care, public transit, bridges, levees, schools and other physical infrastructure, as well as as well as conservation, renewable energy and other environmentally sustainable technologies;

**WHEREAS**, greater federal, state, and municipal investment in meeting infrastructure and service needs could create millions of new, living wage jobs and lay the foundation for shared prosperity and improved quality of life for all;

**WHEREAS**, every job in the United States should be a decent job that allows individuals and families to live a secure and prosperous life; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the [ \_\_\_\_\_ City Council or Legislature] calls upon the Congress to enact a “Main Street” Economic Stimulus Package as proposed by the US Conference of Mayors, and other pending legislation to meet urgent unmet public needs for infrastructure and services, and create new millions of living wage jobs;

**RESOLVED**, the [ \_\_\_\_\_ City Council or Legislature] calls upon the Congress to introduce and pass a 21st Century Public Investment Act to provide additional support for high-priority public works and services, with emphasis on providing jobs for the unemployed;

**RESOLVED**, the [ \_\_\_\_\_ City Council or Legislature] calls upon the Congress to create a National Employment Accounting Office to systematically evaluate the progress of efforts to improve infrastructure and services and create jobs, and assess future needs for additional public investment;

**RESOLVED**, the [ \_\_\_\_\_ City Council or Legislature] encourages the Congress to raise the minimum wage and bring it closer to a living wage by restoring its historic 1960s value and linking it to 60% of the average wage;

**RESOLVED**, the [ \_\_\_\_\_ City Council or Legislature] declares [ seven day period ] to be Jobs for All Week in [ town, city, state]. We encourage [town/city/state ] residents, public officials, labor unions and nonprofit organizations to become involved in finding lasting solutions to the United States’ twin deficits of unemployment and underinvestment in infrastructure and essential public services, by supporting effective programs of public and private job creation.

**About the Drive for Decent Work and How to  
Gain Support for this Resolution**

(Over)

# **RESTORING AND SHARING PROSPERITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

## **THE DRIVE FOR DECENT WORK**

Our nation's output per person doubled since 1970. But most of us didn't share this prosperity. Why? Most of it went to the top, contributing to the inequality that is at the root of our current crisis. High incomes and profits, abetted by government's refusal to regulate, were funneled into high-return, high-risk assets that ultimately imploded.

It wasn't always this way. After World War II, Americans began to expect that growing abundance would be more widely shared.

Progress toward shared prosperity has been reversed and prosperity itself is in jeopardy. Over the last several decades, Corporate America and its political partners have carried out an assault on middle- and lower-income people.

How? By shipping millions of jobs overseas. By increasing profits at the expense of workers and the environment. Through tax giveaways to the rich. By eroding workers' rights and compensation.

**We can start back on the road to Shared Prosperity by simultaneously reducing two of our nation's deficits:**

- The Chronic Jobs Deficit - Even with the unemployment rate 5-6%, there are millions more unemployed workers than available jobs. And that's not counting the underemployed and underpaid. The chronic jobs deficit is especially high and burdensome for minorities and youth.

- The Public Investment Deficit - Underinvestment in public transit, bridges, levees, schools and other infrastructure. Underinvestment in child, elder and health care, education, housing and other basics.

The Drive for Decent Work would create millions of new jobs that are also investments in infrastructure and services. Reducing one of these deficits also reduces the other.

A nation that fails to invest in its human, physical and environmental resources is doomed to decline. Creating decent work through public investment is a Win/Win solution! Every job should be decent work.

For more information, see The Drive for Decent Work booklet at: <http://www.njfac.org/sharedpros.pdf>

### **To pass a local resolution in your town, city, county or state:**

- Organize a Local Coalition of organizations who support The Drive for Decent Work
- Survey Council members or Legislators to Learn More about Their Views on Jobs
- Identify Council Member Allies who will Introduce the Resolution and Support It
- Hold a Public Education Event
- Gather Other Endorsements or Signatures in Support
- Conduct Outreach to the Media by adapting this Resolution as a press release or letter to your local paper.

### **For more help with the Drive for Decent Work Resolution, Contact:**

NJFAC Vice Chair Chuck Bell at 914-830-0639 [cbell@igc.org](mailto:cbell@igc.org)

or

NJFAC Outreach Coordinator Logan Martinez, at 937-275-7259 [loganmartinez2u@yahoo.com](mailto:loganmartinez2u@yahoo.com)

See also the guide to Getting a Resolution Passed at: [www.CitiesForProgress.org](http://www.CitiesForProgress.org) (under Resolution Toolkits)

**YES!** I want to join, work and support the National Jobs for All Coalition.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **National Jobs for All Coalition (NJFAC) c/o Council on International and Public Affairs**

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The National Jobs for All Coalition is a project of the Council on International and Public Affairs.