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TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION No. 295

AIR FREIGHT CHAUFFEURS, HANDLERS, WAREHOUSEMEN, ALLIED WORKERS, MISCELLANEOUS,
PRODUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES GREATER NEW YORK AREA & VICINITY
AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Election season is here and it can be easy to be overwhelmed, worried, anxious, angry and stressed. In the midst of it all, let's remember to focus on our families and our responsibilities to them and our job to provide for them and their future.

"Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." These words, spoken by President John F. Kennedy over 60 years ago, were a call to action, a reminder that democracy isn't a gift; it's a responsibility. Today, we stand at another pivotal moment in history, maybe the greatest in our children's lifetime, where the direction of our country—and the future of working families—hinges on what we choose to do next.

In Kennedy's time, Americans worried about the nuclear arms race, about racial divides and economic struggles that seemed insurmountable. Now, the challenges we face are different, yet equally urgent. The rapid growth of technology threatens our privacy and our jobs; inflation eats away at our wages; and new policies often put our livelihoods, our rights, and our communities on the line.

In our recent union polling, nearly every member told us the same thing: we're concerned, not just about policies, but about the future. We're concerned that the very foundation of what we've worked hard to build—the ability to provide for our families, to feel secure in our jobs, and to live with dignity and pride—is being threatened. These concerns unite us, because they're not just issues; they're our lives.

So, as Americans and as Teamsters, we face a choice. We want common-sense policies that protect our borders, our wallets, and our peace of mind. We want leaders who value the middle class, who understand that a strong middle class makes a strong America. And we want to protect our right to work with dignity—rights our union brothers and sisters have fought for, decade after decade.

It's becoming clearer every day that many so-called "friends of labor" are simply not with us. At every turn, these politicians tax us, overregulate us, and strip away the protections that allow us to live our lives with dignity. Look no further than New York City's new law on last-mile deliveries. This law, passed under the guise of environmental reform, forces companies like DHL and UPS to hand over their shipments to non-union companies and non-union workers, to complete the last leg of delivery. This isn't about sustainability; it's about union-busting, plain and simple.



The NYC Department of Transportation is rolling out “Microhubs” across the five boroughs, replacing union jobs with low-wage, gig economy work. With each new hub, dozens of Local 295 brothers and sisters will lose their jobs, lose their healthcare, and lose their pensions. Make no mistake that this law is an anti-union, pro-Amazon effort, meant to exploit workers, dismantle union jobs, and flood some of the busiest streets in this country with low-wage, gig economy workers who lack the basic protections union members have fought for decades to secure. This isn’t a one-off; it’s the beginning of a movement that threatens everything we’ve built.

We’ve been through this before, haven’t we? We worked tirelessly as essential workers throughout the pandemic, risking our lives every day. And then, as we neared the end, we were hit with city-wide mandates, forced to choose between our beliefs and our jobs. This wasn’t protection; it was overreach, and it’s yet another example of runaway government.

Now, there’s only one way we can protect ourselves: we must come together. We must vote—not just because it’s our civic duty, but because our very future depends on it. When we go to the polls, we have a chance to change the course of our country and ensure that those in power respect the working class. Together, we can send a message that we won’t stand by while our livelihoods are threatened and our values disregarded.

Let’s not live in a country shaped by bureaucrats, politicians, and special interests. Let’s live in a country shaped by us—the working men and women who built it, who defend it, and who make it run every day. I have faith in each one of you to stand up, cast your vote, and do your part to secure a better future for our families, our union, and our country.

Importantly, we want and need politicians that will make the middle class great again. If, and when, that happens, then we, the middle class will make America great again. So let’s get out there. Let’s vote with the power of the middle class. Let’s vote for the future we want, the America we believe in.

As I and the rest of the Local 295 Executive Board proudly serve you all, our brothers and sisters, know that together, we are stronger, and together, we will protect our rights, our families, and our future. God bless each of you, your families, and this great nation we’re all so proud to call home.

Fraternally,



President Lou Calmine and the Local 295 Executive Board



“VOTE VOTE VOTE”