



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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- J.W. Johnson
- Thom McDaniel
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- Roger Tauss
- James Whalen
- Gary Yingst

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- Richard Adams
- Richard Boehm
- Sandra Burleson
- Brian Clarke
- Duke Hingley
- Carl Martin
- Gary Shults
- Roger Toussaint

Executive Board

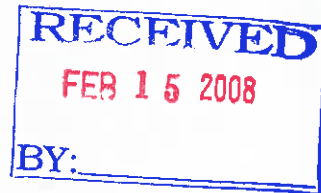
- Wesley Alamo
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- John Conley
- Fred Fink
- Alex Garcia
- Alice Goodman
- Jim Guido
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- Benyoel Morgan
- Carlos Padilla
- Orton Reynolds
- Nelson Rivera
- Richard Rodriguez
- Robert Romaine
- Curtis Tate
- Ed Watt
- Portia Reddick White

February 11, 2008

To: All Local Presidents (w/enc.)

From: James C. Little, International President

Re: Barack Obama



Attached please find a letter addressed to all TWU Members regarding the 2008 Presidential Campaign.

Please make copies of this letter and have them distributed to all TWU Members.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

JCL:mo
opeiu-153





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Dear TWU Members:

With the withdrawal of John Edwards from the fight for the Democratic nomination for President, the TWU faced a choice – to sit on the sidelines while others determined the nominee or to engage with the other Candidate for Change in this race, Barack Obama.

The choice was not difficult. The TWU International Executive Council overwhelmingly voted to join with Ted Kennedy, labor's leading champion in Washington, and endorse the candidacy of Barack Obama.

The threats facing working families require nothing less: rising inequality of wealth and income; attacks on labor; everything from housing foreclosures to rising health care costs to increasing threats to our retirement security.

All of these are being driven by Corporate America's increasing control over the levers of power in Washington, leading to export of U.S. jobs and cuts in spending on everything from transit to air and rail transportation.

While either candidate is preferable to any of the Republican candidates, there are huge differences between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in how they address these threats.

- Barack Obama has refused to accept Corporate PAC money while Hillary Clinton has received more contributions from Wall Street than any candidate, including Republicans. This can be seen as their calculation that a Clinton Presidency would continue to "triangulate" between Wall Street and working families.
- When Barack Obama left school, he went to work as a community organizer on the Southside of Chicago, building coalitions of residents, labor unions and churches to bring job training and economic development to the blighted area. Hillary Clinton opted to become a director of Wal-Mart where ABC News reports that Clinton sat by silently while the company ran one of the nation's fiercest anti-union campaigns (<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/story?id=4218509&page=1>). Obama, it should be noted, joined union efforts to force Wal-Mart improve to wages and health coverage.
- Barack Obama is committed to appointing an Administration that limits Corporate America's ability to implement anti-union policies that disadvantage working Americans. Hillary Clinton's advisors include:
 - Mark Penn, her de facto campaign manager, chief advisor and pollster who is CEO of one of the world's major union busting public relations firms, Burson-Marsteller.

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Labor leaders including AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, have asked Senator Clinton to have Penn either resign his position with Burson-Marsteller or resign from the campaign. Senator Clinton refused, telling these leaders they were going to have to "live with it."

- Barack Obama is committed to bringing good paying jobs to American workers. Hillary Clinton supported the job-killing NAFTA treaty, calling it a "boon to the economy" (Newsday 9/11/06). The San Francisco Chronicle called her recent coolness to free trade "a flip-flop" (10/12/07).

In addition, Barack Obama gives us the best chance to win back the White House. Probable Republican candidate John McCain shares none of the weaknesses of President Bush. To beat him we need a candidate who looks to the future, not to recreating the 1990's. To answer McCain's reputation for "Straight Talk" we need a candidate who speaks from the heart, not from the latest polling data.

Barack Obama is that candidate.

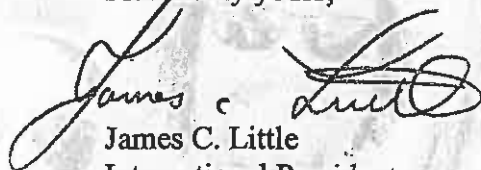
The Campaign for the Nomination

Barack Obama won a majority of the states contested on Super Tuesday and a majority of the delegates selected that day. More than half the delegates are still to be decided. There are 13 state contests with over 1,000 delegates in the next month. The TWU is critically positioned in many of these states and we encourage our officers and members to participate on behalf of Barack Obama.

You are in a unique position to influence the direction of our country as a critical turning point in its history. I call on our Local Officers and members to engage in the Grassroots activism you do so well. I have asked our Legislative and Political Director Roger Tauss and staff to finalize our aggressive political agenda in concert with the Obama campaign.

Once finalized, we will be soliciting all of your assistance in the process.

Fraternally yours,


James C. Little
International President

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c: Harry Lombardo
Joseph Gordon
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International Executive Council and Board
TWU Local Presidents