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Resolution in support of Jim McGovern (D-MA)'s HR Bill 2404, an Afghanistan Exit Strategy

Whereas, eight years ago the global "War on Terror" began in Afghanistan, we must again ask ourselves, is this the "good" war?; and

Whereas, Congress just appropriated \$106 billion more for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq while our states and cities face deep cuts in social services and unemployment grows; and

Whereas, in Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries, 3.7 million have fled their homeland (population 29 million) and over 20,000 have died; and

Whereas, as of July 2009 the Department of Defense reported that 716 U.S. soldiers are dead and 3,162 wounded; and

Whereas, unmanned U.S. drone attacks (controlled from Nevada) are killing many Afghan civilians, creating deep anger and thereby making our nation far less secure; and

Whereas, a Carnegie Foundation study finds "that the mere presence of foreign soldiers fighting in Afghanistan is probably the single most important factor in the resurgence of the Taliban," and

Whereas, the conservative Rand Corporation has concluded that there is no military solution to terrorism; and

Whereas, the U.S. government, even after eight years, has no exit strategy for disengaging our military from Afghanistan; and

Whereas, U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA), with 94 cosponsors, has introduced HR 2404 that requires that "not later than December 31, 2009 the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report outlining the U.S. exit strategy for U.S. military forces in Afghanistan,"

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council urge Bay Area Congresspersons and all Bay Area Labor Councils to push for an imminent, rapid withdrawal of all U.S. troops and bases from Afghanistan and to resolved the conflict there with economic development that raises living standards, with diplomacy and negotiations that include the Taliban and all of Afghanistan's neighbors; and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council support bill HR 2404 and urges the California Congressional delegation to cosponsor and support this responsible legislation; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council submit this resolution for consideration at the AFL-CIO Convention and that copies be available to all Bay

Area Labor Councils and the California Labor Federation with a request that they too adopt it and support its adoption by the AFL-CIO.

Submitted by Brother Dave Welsh, NALC 214, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on July 13, 2009.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the left from the start of the name.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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