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Resolution Urging the California Labor Federation to Actively Oppose Proposition 16 on the California June 8, 2010 State Ballot

Whereas, a private utility corporation, PG&E, has placed an initiative Proposition 16 on the June 8, 2010 California State Ballot to insure its own monopoly control of the market from Eureka to Bakersfield against any attempt by any public agency to offer residents and businesses any alternative source of energy unless they can garner support from two-thirds of the affected residents and voters, but only requires 50% + 1 to pass; and

Whereas, Proposition 16 would further imprint the tyranny of the minority two-thirds voting requirement in the California State Constitution, and further weaken the effort to establish majority rule; and

Whereas, PG&E has spent nearly \$30 million to date using the same deceptive advertising and lobbying for Proposition 16 as US employers used to oppose the Employee Free Choice Act, claiming their initiative for monopoly control is instead a voters' rights issue; and

Whereas, PG&E is allowed to spend unlimited rate payer monies promoting its own self-serving initiative, while competing public power agencies are not permitted to spend their money to say what's wrong with Proposition 16; and

Whereas, Proposition 16 would force local utilities like Palo Alto, Silicon Valley Power, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District to get two-thirds voter approval in a costly election process to expand their services while PG&E would be able to spend unlimited money to fight such competition; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council is on record in support of majority rule and opposing the two-thirds voting requirement for levying taxes and adopting the state budget; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, the San Francisco Labor Council communicate this resolution to Art Pulaski and urge the California Labor Federation to actively oppose Proposition 16 on the June 8, 2010 State Ballot, PG&E's deceptive propaganda that it is a voting rights issue, and Prop. 16's undemocratic two-thirds voting requirement, as further undermining the effort to establish majority rule at the ballot box; and

Be It Further Resolved, the SFLC immediately send this resolution to its affiliates in a blast fax, and to its sister Labor Councils in the Greater Bay Area, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego areas urging they act without delay to urge the State Federation of Labor to oppose Proposition 16 at the upcoming State Labor Convention and,

Be It Finally Resolved, that the SFLC also send this resolution to the Mayor, each member of the Board of Supervisors, six of whom are already signatory to a resolution from the Board opposing Proposition 16.

Submitted by Denis Mosgofian, GCC-IBT 4N/388M; Ron Dicks, IFPTE 21; Tom Edminster, UESF; Roger Scott, AFT 2121; Maria Guillen, SEIU 1021; Howard Wallace, Pride At Work; and Tami Bryant, CSEA 1000 and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on April 5, 2010.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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