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Tim Paulson

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Walter L. Johnson

Resolution Declaring Solidarity with the Salvadoran Labor Movement's Fight against the US-backed Public-Private Partnership Law

WHEREAS, the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly will vote on the Public-Private Partnership Law (P3 Law), which would create a mechanism to grant concessions to national and transnational businesses for a period of up to 40 years for El Salvador's state-run services and industries; and

WHEREAS, the Salvadoran Union Front – consisting of more than 60 Salvadoran unions, union federations and workers associations - has called for international action to support their struggle against the approval and implementation of the P3 Law, considering this law to be a sweeping privatization law that threatens 120,000 remaining public sector jobs, that threatens the welfare of workers in those jobs and that threatens the hard-won gains of unions within state-operated agencies; and

WHEREAS, the P3 Law was drafted by the IMF, World Bank, US Treasury Department and the Office of the President of El Salvador to increase foreign investment in El Salvador by auctioning off state assets to corporations. The Salvadoran state has been squarely on the losing side of privatizations. Past administrations sold off \$5.7 billion in public assets and received only \$334 million in return. These privatizations have also resulted in severe union busting, tens of thousands of lost jobs and skyrocketing costs for essential goods and services that have pushed an even greater percentage of the population into poverty and unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the P3 Law, despite having so many powerful, international economic authorities as co-authors, does not contain protections for workers, labor organizing, the environment or consumers; and

WHEREAS, the US government is throwing its full diplomatic weight to push the passage of the proposed P3 Law in El Salvador using both the US Ambassador to El Salvador - who has declared that \$450 million dollars of development funds from the Millennium Challenge Corporation to El Salvador will not be given unless the P3 Law passes - and the US government's Partnership for Growth – a supposed economic assistance program offered to El Salvador during President Obama's visit in 2011. The Partnership for Growth Council has publicly and repeatedly called for the passage of the P3 Law; and

WHEREAS, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) is the only Salvadoran political party pledging to vote against this law, and with only 32 of 84 seats cannot block the passage of the P3 Law alone,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council publicly declares its support for the Salvadoran labor movement's fight to stop the Public-Private Partnership Law for being a thinly-veiled, sweeping privatization law, and calls on El Salvador's

Legislative Assembly to vote down this law as an ill-conceived initiative that attacks public-sector workers and unions; and

BE IT FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council will send letters to Technical Secretary of El Salvador, Alex Segovia [asegovia@presidencia.gob.sv], and the leaders of all parties that have representation in El Salvador's Legislative Assembly – including Sr. Donato Eugenio Vaquerano Rivas of ARENA [dvaquerano@asamblea.gob.sv], Sr. Douglas Leonardo Mejia Avilès of CD [dmejia@asamblea.gob.sv], Sr. Luis Roberto Angulo Samayoa of CN [langulo@asamblea.gob.sv], Sra. Norma Fidelia Guevara de Ramirios of FMLN [norma.guevara@asamblea.gob.sv], Sr. Carlos Walter Guzmán Coto of GANA [cguzman@asamblea.gob.sv], Sr. Rodolfo Antonio Parker of PES [rparker@asamblea.gob.sv] - to relay the deep concerns from the US labor movement regarding the negative impacts that the P3 Law will have on jobs, workers, unions and the people of El Salvador and to call on the Salvadoran party leaders to vote against the P3 Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council will sign on to a statement against the Public-Private Partnership to be printed as a paid advertisement in Salvadoran daily newspapers to further pressure Salvadoran lawmakers into voting down the law while demonstrating the widespread, international support for the Salvadoran labor movement's position against the Public-Private Partnership Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council will send delegate(s) to El Salvador to join an International Workers Day labor delegation to El Salvador to demonstrate international labor solidarity and provide active support for the Salvadoran labor movement's struggle against the P3 Law; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council will send this resolution to the South Bay, Monterey Bay, Alameda, San Mateo, Contra Costa and North Bay Central Labor Councils, also to the California Labor Federation and the AFL-CIO for their concurrence and action.

Submitted by Allan Fisher and Rodger Scott, AFT Local 2121, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on February 11, 2013.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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