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**Resolution to Support Worker and Youth Uprising in France –
No to the Anti-Labor Law**

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Whereas, French unions, youth and immigrant workers have been in the streets since mid-March, shutting down production and transportation, saying NO to the anti-labor reform law pushed undemocratically through the government without a vote, and YES to keeping the hard-fought-for 35-hour work week; and

Whereas, over 1,000,000 workers of many nationalities, led by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and other labor unions – with support from the Nuit Debout (“Up All Night”) youth and student movement – have mounted many hundreds of work stoppages, occupations, blockades, strikes and street marches in towns and cities across France, to protest the dismantling of labor rights. The new labor law would allow companies to exceed the 35-hour work week without paying full overtime; increase daily and weekly overtime limits; make it easier to fire employees and replace steady jobs with precarious, poorly-paid ones – driving down the standard of living for current and future generations; and

Whereas, on one day, no corporate newspapers were printed. Another day, 40% of mass transit was shut down. French oil refineries went on strike, with fuel depots blockaded and many gas stations going dry, forcing authorities to dip into national oil reserves. Dockworkers went out, as tankers sat offshore because they couldn’t be unloaded. Port workers blocked bridges and roads in Le Havre and Rouen; steelworkers did the same in Marseille. Workers struck most of France’s nuclear power plants, which generate about 80% of French electricity. Air traffic controllers, pilots and subway operators stopped or slowed operations at airports and the Paris Metro. Railroads were struck for weeks. On some days most Paris street cleaners did not report for work. On one day, 176 high schools were blockaded. Yet despite these disruptions, polls showed that 71 per cent of the French people support the protests and oppose the anti-worker law – what Associated Press called “a groundswell of public anger”; and

Whereas, the employers’ “labor law reform” offensive is like a “line in the sand” for the workers of France – a massive attack similar, in the U.S., to the imposition of the anti-union Taft-Hartley law in 1947, or President Reagan’s 1981 firing of striking PATCO air traffic controllers; and

Whereas, the French workers’ fight to keep the 35-hour week recalls the “30 for 40” campaigns in the U.S. (demanding 30 hours work for 40 hours pay). During the Great Depression, the Black-Connery bill was introduced in the US Senate as a means of putting millions of unemployed back to work, requiring employers to pay time and a half after 30 hours; it passed the Senate but narrowly failed to pass the House. Today, with real unemployment in double digits in both France and the United States, France’s workers need to keep their 35-hour work week and we need “30 for 40.”

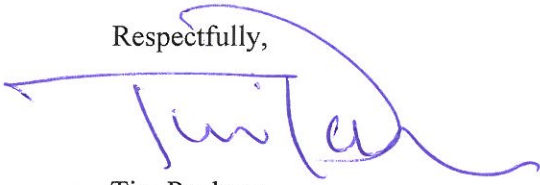
Whereas, the uprising in France has stayed strong, defying the government “state of emergency” and heavy repression by militarized French riot police; and

Whereas, the unions in France have called a national general strike for Tuesday, June 14, 2016, the day the Senate is due to consider the anti-labor law.

Therefore be it Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council send our warmest greetings of support to the fighting French unions and the rising working class of France, as they go all-out to defeat the anti-labor law. We hail the upsurge of public and private sector unions, of unemployed, pensioners, students and immigrants. The unity of the workers and oppressed people is what will stop the bosses in their tracks, as they move to undermine the 35-hour work week, pensions, vacations, health benefits – all the things that unions in France have won in the class struggle; and

Submitted by Dave Welsh, NALC 214; Ann Robertson, CFA; and Rodger Scott, AFT 212; and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on June 27, 2016.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back to the right.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director