

## **Resolution on Labor Standards at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus**

*Sponsored by Sean Casey*

WHEREAS the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus being built in the City of Alexandria should benefit all workers in our community, including construction, food service, maintenance, and hospitality workers so that we reduce income inequality;

WHEREAS the Alexandria Democratic Committee embraces the view that all work has dignity, and all workers should have fair wages, health care, retirement security, safe working conditions, and union rights;

WHEREAS there is a pervasive problem of wage theft, labor trafficking, exploitation of immigrants, and misclassification on construction sites in northern Virginia;

WHEREAS workers have filed two separate lawsuits alleging wage theft at Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus and wage theft was uncovered at a Virginia Tech office renovation in Alexandria;

WHEREAS the Building Trades Unions offer free readiness classes and paid apprenticeship programs to Alexandria residents who wish to gain middle-class careers as skilled craftspersons;

WHEREAS the Building Trades Unions are assisting local minority and women-owned contractors in their efforts to grow successful companies;

WHEREAS the best way to prevent wage theft and exploitation of immigrants at the Innovation Campus is for Virginia Tech to immediately adopt labor standards;

WHEREAS to be equitable, the labor standards should include:

1. Use of prevailing wage rates.
2. Subcontractors must self-perform at least 90% of their work.
3. Any independent contractors must be approved by Virginia Tech.
4. Hire an independent labor compliance administrator.
5. Participate in registered apprenticeship programs.
6. Hire local residents for the work.
7. Hire minority- and women-owned contractors.

AND WHEREAS the Alexandria community is pro-union and wants Virginia Tech to play a positive role in lifting up the living standards of all of our working-class residents. Now, therefore, be it—

RESOLVED that the ADC—

1. Calls upon Virginia Tech to immediately adopt the above-mentioned labor standards that prevent the exploitation of workers and that strongly support worker freedom of association and right to collective bargaining;
2. Believes that Virginia Tech should adopt policies that help local Alexandria businesses, fosters local labor, and cover any required training to meet construction standards;
3. Calls on Virginia Tech to protect its workers and offer to sponsor immigrants that wish to work as part of the labor force recognizing these workers equally including the right to carry out collective bargaining; and
4. States that our community joins with President Joe Biden who pledges to be the “strongest labor president you’ve ever had.”