

Resolution 5: SUPPORTING A GLOBAL LABOR MOVEMENT

Submitted by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee

WHEREAS, the current global neoliberal system largely benefits transnational corporations with no regard to labor rights or standards. This race to the bottom environment is having a devastating impact leading to the loss of union jobs in the United States and the rise of rampant exploitation of our union family across the globe; and

WHEREAS, forced and exploitative labor generates an estimated \$150 billion per year, according to the International Labor Organization, and 11 percent is within the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, there is a large global disparity in labor costs that benefits corporations across agricultural commodities. In North Carolina, union farmworkers make close to \$15 an hour or more with piece rate incentives, whereas our global counterparts have shared making a \$1 a day or sometimes less; and

WHEREAS, in the agricultural industry in the United States, large manufacturers and purchasers for transnational corporations control commodity pricing, setting unsustainable prices, leading to growers closing farms, or cutting costs through exploitative independent labor contractors. Competing with commodity pricing acquired through exploitation and forced labor is unattainable; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor biannually releases a list of goods produced by child labor or forced labor and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the authority to prevent products from entering the United States that have been produced with forced labor within its supply chain; and

WHEREAS, holding transnational corporations accountable requires a global approach, ensuring no worker is exploited for profit; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NC State AFL-CIO calls on the United States federal government to utilize the Tariff Act of 1930 and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, to prevent products made with forced and exploitative labor from entering the United States market in order to protect union jobs and hold corporations responsible for labor exploitation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NC State AFL-CIO and our affiliates will work with global unions and counterparts across the globe to support their efforts in building an effective transnational labor movement built on shared solidarity, with the goal of holding transnational corporations accountable and building sustainable supply chains.