

## **In Solidarity with Our Brothers and Sisters in the UAW**

1       WHEREAS, the AFT and the UAW have a 70-year tradition of solidarity and  
2 mutual support; and  
3       WHEREAS, the moral, strategic and financial support of the UAW played a  
4 crucial role in establishing the AFT as an organizing and collective bargaining force  
5 within the education sector; and  
6       WHEREAS, the relationship, which started in Detroit in the 1930s and made  
7 labor history in the 1961 representation election for New York City's teachers,  
8 continues to this day with our Unity Team partnership for state employees in  
9 Indiana; and  
10       WHEREAS, the UAW has been a driving force behind lifting millions of American  
11 workers into a thriving middle class at the heart of our democratic society; and  
12       WHEREAS, the current economic crisis plaguing the country has emboldened  
13 labor's detractors and set them on a course blaming unions for failures of  
14 management and government; and  
15       WHEREAS, the UAW has been a leader in pioneering innovative collective  
16 bargaining and labor-management approaches for improving the quality of goods  
17 and services through meaningful worker involvement:

18       **RESOLVED that the American Federation of Teachers supports the UAW's**  
19 **efforts to ensure the survival and prosperity of the unionized automobile**  
20 **sector in the United States; and**

21       **RESOLVED that the American Federation of Teachers calls upon Congress**  
22 **and the incoming Obama administration to reject measures that would**  
23 **attempt to solve the current economic crisis by driving American**  
24 **manufacturing workers into a race to the bottom with respect to wages,**  
25 **working conditions and democratic voice; and**

26       **RESOLVED that the more than 1.4 million members of the American**  
27 **Federation of Teachers stand in solidarity with the men and women of the**  
28 **UAW in their struggle to restore and strengthen the domestic automobile**  
29 **industry as the powerful engine of American manufacturing and prosperity,**  
30 **and as the road to the middle class for millions of American workers and their**  
31 **families.**

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33       **Passed by the AFT Executive Council**  
34       **Meeting in Washington, DC**  
35       **January 18, 2009**  
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