

FALL 2021

SOLIDARITY

The magazine for UAW members and their families



Welcome Home
PFC Ellis



**Solidarity
Around
the Globe**

**ZF Joins
the UAW**

SOLIDARITY

Fall 2021 | Vol. 64, No. 4

International Union, UAW

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

FIGHT BACK NOW!

Voting rights are under attack

There is nothing that defines the American experience more than the freedom to vote.

It is a right that has been defended with blood, sweat and tears first in the American revolution; and then for some during the Civil War and for women almost a decade later.

This right didn't come easy. During our history, we fought through land ownership discrimination, gender discrimination, racial discrimination, poll taxes, Jim Crow Laws, and misogyny. We made it to a place in our history that gave the right and access to voting to all of our brothers and sisters. It is the struggle that the late Rep. John Lewis called "good trouble" as bit by bit the doors to the voting booth have been opened to all Americans.

Our UAW for that reason has stood at the forefront of pushing for fairness in voting. Walter Reuther stood with President Lyndon Johnson and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the signing of the Voting Rights Act. Reuther and other UAW members marched across the Selma bridge in the face of violence and intimidation. In fact, when Dr. King marched in Birmingham and met the racist tyranny of Police Chief Bull Conner, it was UAW members who drove through the night to Alabama after raising and providing the bail to release Dr. King from the Birmingham jail.

So linked are we at the UAW that the first

version of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech" was written at Solidarity House ahead of his first delivery at Cobo Hall, now Huntington Place. The UAW even fought to make voting day a contractual holiday.

But today in our nation, those hard-fought voting rights are under attack. The right to cast your ballot is under siege and if these divisive anti-labor forces succeed in dismantling these hard-fought voter protections, we will feel the effects for generations to come.

Consider this:

- More than 350 bills seeking restrictive voting provisions have been introduced in state legislatures in 47 states since March 2021.
- Currently, 18 states have already enacted 30 laws this year that will make it harder for Americans to vote.
- At least 22 bills that will limit voting access have been signed into law in states this year.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, these laws make mail voting and early voting more difficult, impose harsher voter ID requirements, and make faulty voter purges more likely, among other things.

And some according to the Brennan Center come with a twist. Four of these laws are mixed, meaning they also contain pro-voter policies to create public confusion. Other restrictions are narrower in their scope.

Here in Michigan an anti-labor Conservative group has launched a petition drive to maneuver current state voting laws. This initiative is called "Secure MI Vote", and its organizers have filed proposed petition language with the Michigan Secretary of State.

The petition asks that the state make identification mandatory for in-person and absentee voting, prohibit absentee ballot application mass mailings and bar election funding by private groups.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has vowed to veto any legislation making it harder to vote. However, a provision in the Michigan Constitution allows this committee to go around Governor Whitmer by collecting at least 340,047 valid signatures to send the initiative to the Legislature, which could then enact it into law rather than put it on the 2022 ballot.

The Brennan Center states that "these laws make voting by mail voting and early voting more difficult, impose harsher voter ID requirements, and make faulty voter purges more likely, among other things."

But nothing gained is given as we all know. Americans have had to fight for this right to vote and have the vigilance to fight to protect those rights.

In Congress, the For the People Act, passed by the House and now awaiting action in the Senate, would mitigate the

effect of many state-level restrictions. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would protect voters by preventing new discriminatory laws from being implemented.

Our nation was founded on a profound principle — that our government is and must be chosen by the people. That means all levels - federal, state, and local governments.

Chosen by the people, all of the people.

More people than ever voted in the last presidential election in 2020. Both parties won and lost. Americans, Black, White, and Brown, young, and old, men and women, turned out in the middle of the worst pandemic the world has seen in generations to take advantage of that right.

And it is definitely a right worth fighting to preserve.

BIDEN, SCHUMER, PELOSI, AND BI-PARTISAN CONGRESS COME UP BIG FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS

Passage of any legislation in this hyper-partisan age is a tall order these days. That is why the passage of the Infrastructure Bill is a major win for labor and for jobs for working families.

For UAW members this legislation brings reliability and job opportunities by improving the current state of our roads, bridges, water, electric vehicle infrastructure, internet capacity and electrical grid reliability.

Funding for roads and bridges

President Biden and Congress have invested \$110 billion for major infrastructure including roads and bridges that directly impact the autos, trucks, agricultural equipment and goods and services that UAW makes.

Money for transit and rail

The package would provide \$39 billion to modernize public transit. The deal would also invest \$66 billion in passenger and freight rail which is key to the UAW's manufacturing sector.

Broadband upgrade

Congress has provided UAW members whose work increasingly relies on broadband and over \$65 billion investment in broadband infrastructure.

Upgrading airports, ports, and waterways

Congress has also invested \$17 billion in port infrastructure and \$25 billion in airports injecting efficiencies into the airline freight system by addressing repair and maintenance backlogs, reducing congestion as well as emissions near ports and airports. For UAW Aerospace members the bill provides funding toward new technology including electrification and other low-carbon technologies.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 3

Electric trucks, school buses and vehicles

The jobs package also provides \$7.5 billion for zero- and low-emission buses and ferries, aiming to deliver thousands of electric school buses, many made by UAW members to districts across the country.

Another \$7.5 billion would go to building a nationwide network of plug-in electric vehicle chargers to support demand for UAW members producing and assembling EV vehicles.

Improving power and water systems

A key issue in manufacturing, Congress has invested \$65 billion to rebuild the electric grid by building tens of thousands of miles of new power lines and expanding renewable energy to reduce costs and power the plants of UAW members.

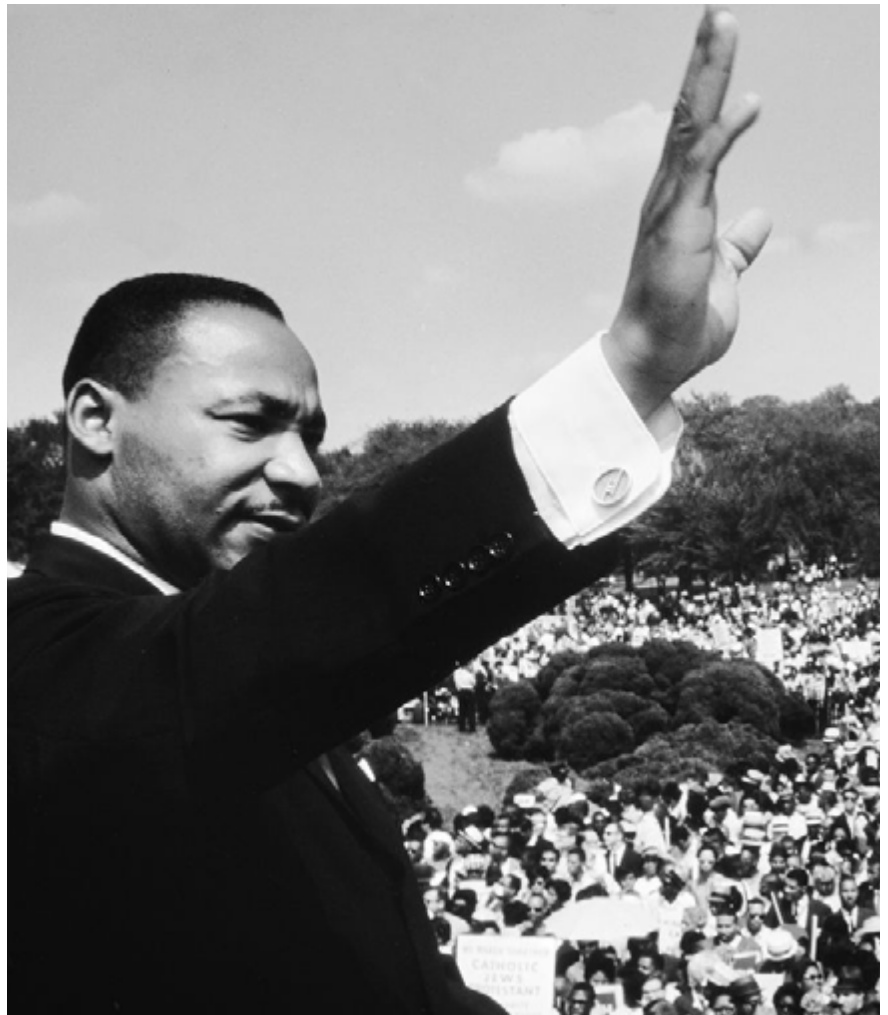
And in a very important issue to the UAW which has long been a concern, Congress as tackled improvements to water quality around our plants, the bill provides \$55 billion to upgrade water infrastructure replacing lead service lines and pipes so that we never have a crisis like Flint, Michigan again.

President Biden, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer not only got bi-partisan support, but they fixed many of the core needs that every American relies on to live, work and succeed in the future.



Ray Curry

President, International Union UAW



MYTH OR FACT

Many new UAW members may be wondering did Martin Luther King, Jr. really pen his “I Have a Dream” speech at the UAW headquarters in Detroit?

On June 23, 1963, over 125,000 people marched down Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan in the ‘Walk to Freedom.’ The march was the largest civil rights demonstration at that time highlighting the injustices African Americans faced across the country.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave one of his most famous speeches that Saturday at Cobo Hall in Detroit. The speech, which had many similarities as the one he would later give in Washington, D.C. two months later, was said to have been composed at UAW headquarters (Solidarity House) where he and others were provided office space to organize the historic march.

This was not the first time the UAW stood with Dr. King. In fact, the UAW marched with Dr. King in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama and in Jackson, Mississippi in prior years. When Dr. King and 800 others were jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, legendary UAW President Walter Reuther turned to his fellow UAW members and raised \$160,000 to bail them out of jail. The UAW and Reuther would be standing with Dr. King again two months after the Detroit speech when he gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech in Washington, D.C.

It was here that Dr. King most fully articulated his “I Have a Dream” speech, in which he emphasized his faith that all men, someday, would be brothers. It was here too that Walter Reuther gave remarks from the podium. In his speech, Reuther urged that our nation must “... bridge the moral gap between American democracy’s noble promises and its ugly practices in the field of civil rights.” Following the event, President John F. Kennedy met with the two leaders to talk more on what could be done.

Myth or fact, you decide!



Welcome Home

PFC. Henry E. Ellis

Henry Edward Ellis was born in Salisbury, North Carolina and was accepted into the U.S Marine Corp at the age of 15 yrs. old. Following his WWII service during which he served in the Pacific campaigns Tinian and Okinawa PFC Ellis was honorably discharged from the U.S Marine but reenlisted 1948. PFC. Ellis was assigned to the Headquarters Company, 1st Service Battalion, 1st Marine Division was deployed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K).

Soldiers of the Chinese People's Volunteer Force (CPVF), which had days earlier joined the war in support of the D.P.R.K, attacked Marine position near Chosin Reservoir. The convoy encountered heavy enemy fire shortly after departing Koto-ri and was forced to withdraw.

PFC Ellis was shot and killed by enemy fire and declared killed in action by the 1st Marine Division in 1950 at the age of 22. Due to heavy enemy fire PFC Ellis's remains were not recovered. In 1954 the United Nation and the CPVF and KPA reached an agreement regarding the recovery and return of the other dead. This agreement known as Operation GLORY lasted from September 1st to October 30th, 1954. His remains known as N-13631 were returned to UN custody as unknown, reportedly exhumed from the United Nations Military Cemetery Koto-ri. After family members submitted DNA 13631 was exhumed in 2018 and tested, in August 2020 13631 was identified as PFC Henry E. Ellis.

PFC Ellis would soon receive the proper burial as a Marine. Bernard Cowan, nephew of PFC Ellis, showed his co-worker Reggie Hunter, a book from the Department of POW/Missing in Action Accountability Agency. PFC Ellis's first dates of service were included in the book. Reggie asked Bernard to request the Rolling Thunder N.C 2 (RTNC 2) to do the honor of escorting his uncle home.

Because Bernard and Reggie are members of Local 3520, other people became involved with the planning of the return home of PFC Ellis, including the chairperson of local 3520, the local president and the UAW Veterans Committee. Reggie also asked the plant manager of Daimler Trust North America, (Freightliner Cleveland Plant) to get involved with this event.

PFC Ellis was confirmed as a Montford Point Marine and his family would receive his Presidential Gold Medal. Montford Point Marines served 1943 segregated during and men of color were not allowed to train with the white marine recruits. Men of color were trained at Camp Lejeune separately at a place call Montford Point. PFC Ellis's final ride was escorted by the Rolling Thunder N.C 2 (RTNC 2) and the Ride of Pride committee. The highway was shut down for his commute along with flags placed on every overpass along the route to the cemetery. He was laid to rest at Salsbury National Cemetery after 51 years on August 23, 2021.





Name 1
REGION 2

Tom Pickett
REGION 2

Carlton Pace
REGION 1

Bob Ramsey
REGION 1A



Meet UAW's National Advisory Committee

Article 44 of the UAW Constitution mandates that the local unions have a veterans' committee. Under the UAW Constitution, in order to serve as a member of the committee you must be a member in good standing. Some of the responsibilities of the committee are to coordinate activities for veterans and supply information regarding veterans' benefits. UAW committees are volunteering at the VA hospital, appearing in parades, participating as honor guards, standdowns, and leading activities during Veterans Day. Committees are also charged with advising local union officers on contractual matters covering veteran rights and benefits.

The UAW also has a national board formed within the International Union's Veterans Department (NVAB). That board is called the National Veterans Advisory Board. The NVAB is comprised of at least two delegates from each region. The NVAB represents the interests of all active and retired UAW members, responds to political and social needs of veterans and encourages veterans to be more active in their local unions.

E. Greg Bedford, Region 2B
Timothy Duplanty, Region 1D
Bob Harvey, Region 1
Carlton Pace, Region 1A
Horace Hubbard, Region 4
Anita Meyers-Pickens, Region 4
Tom Fisher, Region 8
Frederick F. Sona, Region 9
Ray Costa, Region 9A



UAW Helps Build Communities and Futures

Attending graduation is a momentous occasion but for 23 graduates of the Barton Malow Bootcamp it was a life-changing experience. With many families proudly looking on graduates said they learned not only valuable skills that will make them gain meaningful employment in the construction field, but they also learned valuable life skills not often taught in the regular classroom setting.



Barton Malow Bootcamps is a program that provides an opportunity for youth ages 18 to 24 to get hands-on training in the construction fields. In 2020, 77% of graduates received offers of employment. The pre-apprenticeship training helps students gather the skills needed for the trades that deal with electrical, heavy civil, concrete and masonry, steel, rigging and interiors. Also covered in the program are a historic overview of the construction industry and culture, safety fundamentals and procedures, financial literacy, soft skills training, apprentice career path information, and hands-on experience on current projects around the Metro Detroit area. Participants said that they work an average of two days in the field with one

day devoted to workshops.

After the six weeks training, the program assists graduates with getting placement with subcontractors and into apprenticeship programs so they can gain full-time employment and start their way on a career path.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment in construction and extraction occupations are projected to grow 6% from 2020 to 2030, about as fast as the average for all occupations, and gain about 400,000 new jobs. Overall growth in the economy, populations, and an emphasis on the U.S. infrastructure will help fuel this need. The median annual wage for all construction and extraction occupations was \$48,610 in May 2020,

which was higher than the median annual wage for all occupations of \$41,950.

Kara Martini, the Project Executive for Barton Malow said, "For this bootcamp the UAW has been a huge partner in this effort. In fact, not only when we first brought up the idea of the boot camp did they embrace it, but the UAW wanted to make sure that we were going to truly find candidates that would get engaged and would be really interested in entering the trades."

For more information on the Barton Malow Bootcamp, you can visit BartMalow.com/outreach, or you can sign up at bmctradecareers.com.



Dogs Trainers, Bath Scrubs and more!

The UAW-represented workplaces you may not have known about - Part 1

UAW members are well known for working in automotive, aerospace, manufacturing, and the agricultural industry, as our full name implies (United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America), but what about the other, but equally important lesser-known workplaces? Today, our union is as diverse as it's ever been and there are several workplaces that are listed in our UAW-Made section on UAW.org that are interesting and obscure.

Chartered in 1943, Region 1D, Local 413 represents workers at Flanders Industries where they create premium outdoor wicker furniture. Next time you are considering outdoor wicker furniture, go with Flanders Industries. You can find a retailer near you at www.lloydflanders.com/retailers.

Probably one of the more unexpected UAW-represented workplaces is the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc.

where members of Region 9A, Local 2179, Unit 591 are Canine Trainers. Man's best friend has never been in better hands! Learn more at www.guidedog.org.

Hailing from Region 2B, Local 856, Unit 4 our members that work at Merryweather Foam Inc. have you covered when it comes to Loofah Bath Scrubs. From fabrication, packaging, to when it arrives in store, our members make sure your bath scrub is union-made and top quality.

You can find more UAW-made products and services by going to www.UAW.org/uaw-made where you can browse all UAW-made cars, products or typing in the red search bar to find what you're looking for. Be sure to check back next issue of Solidarity Magazine where we'll be bringing you more obscure and interesting workplaces of our members in other UAW Regions.



Solidarity Around the Globe

The UAW was founded on the principles of fighting for the rights and well-being of working men and women — and at the heart of that mission has always been the struggle for civil and human rights and social justice. Not just on America's shores, but around the world.

UAW members can be proud of the global reach of international affairs going back to the days of Walter Reuther. There is a long, proud tradition within the UAW of activism around the globe.

The UAW International Affairs Department advocates for UAW interests on the global stage, building new relationships abroad and maintaining historical relationships. With work focusing on promoting human and labor rights internationally, garnering global support for UAW organizing, and supporting union building and collective bargaining abroad, UAW efforts strengthen international Solidarity, both to improve the living and working conditions of our members and workers throughout the world.

The UAW engages with all countries that have an automotive industry or supply chain — or where labor rights abuses are occurring. Affiliated with Industrial, the UAW has joined with unions from 160 countries representing workers all along the manufacturing supply chain — metal, chemical, textile, mining, and more — in ongoing work in South Korea, Sweden, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Canada, Germany, South Africa and Brazil.

UAW members know that companies are no longer confined within national borders and employers all too often pit workers in different countries against each other in a brutal race to the bottom. This exploitative pursuit of low wages and benefits for profit has taken a heavy toll on U.S. workers and undermines our power at the bargaining table.

UNITY ACROSS BORDERS

There have been many victories over the past 80 years. For example, the UAW played a central role in support for the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa that brought Nelson Mandela to power. More recently, the UAW joined the international fight for labor unionists to call for the release of South Korean labor leader Yang Kyeung this fall, and our brothers and sisters in Brazil and throughout Europe offered their solidarity and support for workers at John Deere on strike.

Here are a few highlights of recent global efforts:

Working for our brother in South Korea

UAW representatives were front and center on October 19 in Washington, D.C., demanding the release of South Korean trade unionist and auto worker Yang Kyeung Soo, president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU). A Korean court eventually sentenced Brother Yang to serve a year in prison but just recently suspended the sentence for two years. The UAW delegation hand delivered a letter from UAW President Ray Curry condemning the arrest and urging the courts to release him immediately and to drop all charges.

While Brother Yang's release represents progress, the UAW notes with deep concern that the South Korean government continues to harass trade unionists for exercising the rights of freedom of association and assembly.

The UAW has called on the South Korean Government to end harassment and intimidation of trade unionists, to respect freedom of association and assembly, and to amend its laws so that they can no longer be used against trade unionists who are exercising their legitimate rights.

COVID-19 Training in Brazil

This past spring, headlines about COVID-19 cases and deaths in Brazil were devastating. A lack of access to vaccines and poor handling of the pandemic by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro -- who downplayed the seriousness of the virus -- have been cited as contributing factors. In addition, Bolsonaro's anti-labor positions have not been helpful in addressing worker health and safety protections including those related to the pandemic. This prompted the Brazilian unions to ask for the UAW's help.

Members were able to deliver an online COVID-19 training last June, with 93 members participating from all four Brazilian union federations. Over the two days, the workers were highly engaged and excited to learn COVID-19 health and safety protocols, which the UAW has been putting into practice in conjunction with corporations in the U.S.

Worldwide support for GM strike

In 2019, an outpouring of support came in from as far away as Brazil, Bangladesh and Thailand for the GM strike. International unions released solidarity videos, photos, letters and other messages in support of striking members. In return, in 2021 UAW support for 4,200 striking workers at GM's São Caetano plant in São Paulo, Brazil -- who struck for 13 days in October -- was overwhelming.

Observing Juneteenth in Korea

In recognition of Juneteenth 2020, members of the Korean Metal Workers Union stopped work in solidarity with UAW members by downing tools. The union expressed their solidarity by writing:

“The Korean Metal Workers’ Union stands in solidarity with the United Auto Workers (UAW) who are stopping work for 8 minutes and 46 seconds on Juneteenth to reflect upon the death of George Floyd and support the movement to end systemic racism & police brutality, and to effect change in our time. Justice for George Floyd! Stop Police Brutality and End Systemic Racism Now! Fund community services, not militarization of police! Break down race/class/gender-based systems of oppression and let us all BREATHE free!”

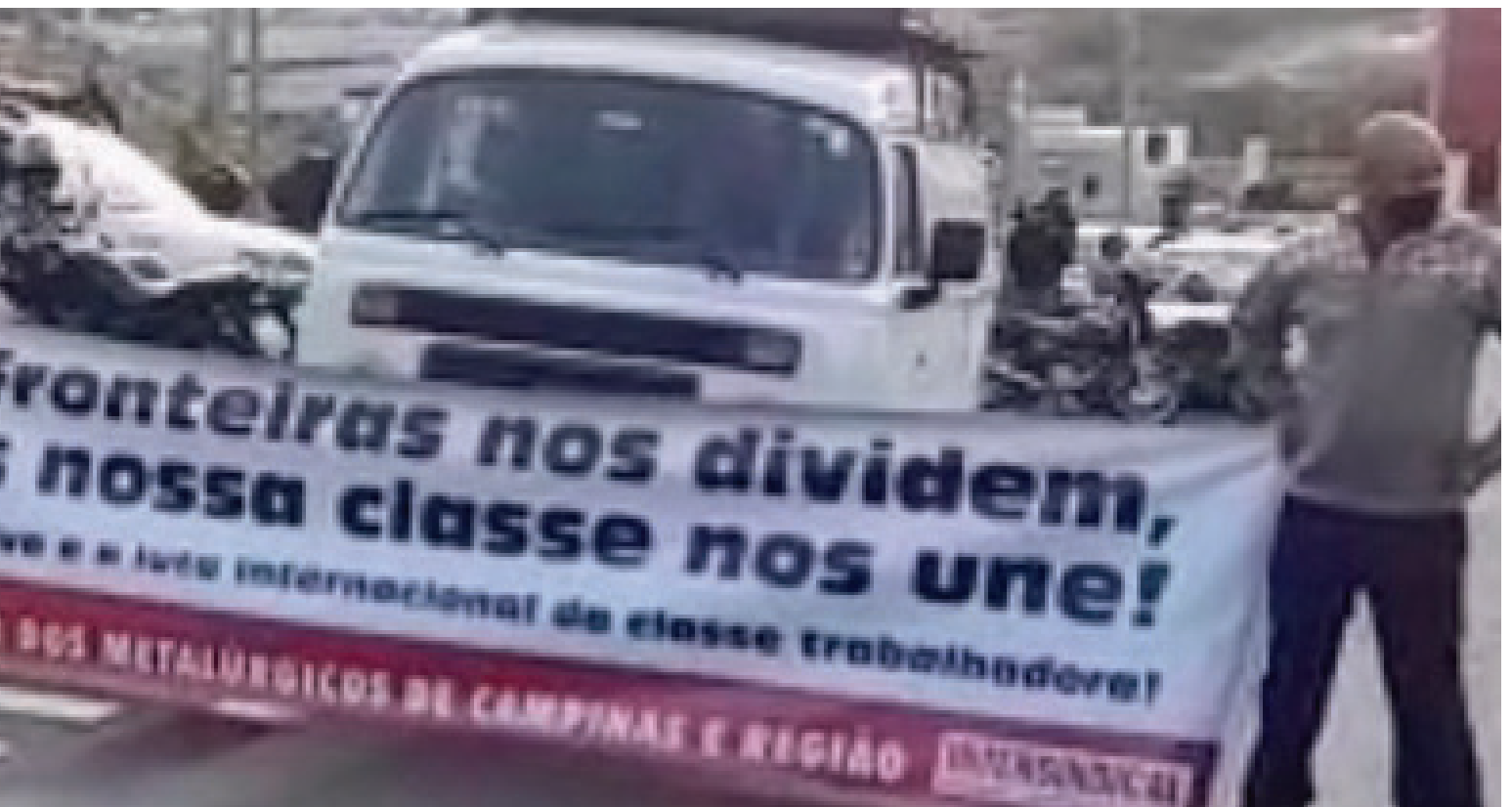






Pulling together for John Deere

On November 2, the John Deere Global Trade Union Network held its annual meeting virtually and thanked the international unions for the solidarity demonstrated for the UAW strike at John Deere. Support came in from unions in Brazil and Europe that represent thousands of Deere workers in their home countries. The Deere European Works Council represents workers in France, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden.



The future landscape of manufacturing and mobility: One size does not fit all



As announcements of new technology and vehicles come on board, the UAW has long championed an approach that is not one-size-fits all but instead, leaves room for adjustments to consumer demand.

“We know that these new technologies in hybrid and electric are coming, but until the consumer demand and infrastructure is in place, it is equally important that we advocate for a flexible and well thought out transition to these jobs of the future -- as well as make sure they yield the good paying union jobs they replace,” said UAW President Ray Curry.

Curry said there are good examples of careful product planning as consumers consider the transition to hybrid and EV vehicles.

“As the auto industry explores new technology, we must keep the focus on good paying jobs and not a one-size-fits-all approach. By gearing products that can give consumers choices, workers won’t be hurt in the transition as demand increases for alternative fuels,” Curry added. “It is no secret that the U.S. auto industry is at a crossroads, as sales of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids are poised to become more and more common on our roads and highways in the years ahead both at home and abroad. What we do today will shape our economy, the auto industry, and our communities for decades to come.”

For example, Stellantis is investing in multi-tool transmissions that will work on gas, hybrid and EV. Stellantis recently announced it would invest \$229 million in three of its Kokomo, Indiana plants to help the company reach its goal of achieving 40% low-emission vehicle sales in the U.S. by 2030. The new transmissions will include a number of common parts within the different versions – transmission gear train/clutch, mechatronics, mechanical pump and E-pump motor but also will have the flexibility for unique parts to adapt to the various electrification options such as the eMotor, torque converter and power electronics.

This plan will retain 662 jobs, and comes three months after the company laid out its long-term electrification strategy, where it committed to investing \$35 billion through 2025 in electrification and software.

In addition, Ford is constructing an entire plant dedicated to building the iconic F-150 truck as gas, hybrid and electric vehicles. With the recent launch of the “F-150 Lightning” in Dearborn, Michigan, Ford’s \$250 million investment in three Michigan plants will create 450 new UAW jobs. Ford says the investment will help increase production and meet consumer demand for the new F-150 Lightning in a unique arrangement where gas and hybrid models will share the paint shop and body shop with the new EV Lightning plant.

“This announcement is a great example of the right way to navigate the transition to tomorrow’s vehicles by ensuring good paying jobs of the future. Investing in building vehicles right here, in the United States, with the hard working men and women of the UAW like this can pave the way to a future that protects our families, our communities and our middle class,” said UAW Region 1A Director Laura Dickerson.

Curry supports President Biden’s transition plan to clean energy because the White House is working with industry to make sure good union jobs are at the forefront as the transition happens.

“President Biden recognizes the importance of this moment and his American Jobs Plan proposed to make the bold investments in manufacturing, consumer incentives, and infrastructure needed to ensure vehicles of the future are made in our country. Without these investments, we will continue to fall behind China and Europe in the race to build the vehicles of the future,” Curry said. “Taxpayer dollars should be spent in support of U.S. built vehicles, not imports. And public money must support good union jobs that provide good wages and benefits, secure employment and the unfettered ability for workers to form a union.”

For Curry the example of Ford’s F-150 and Stellantis Multi-Tool Transmission protects current jobs while transitioning to new technologies. “With these investments, UAW members will be an integral part of this technological shift and our economy, our environment and our communities will all win.”



What's in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Agreement

On November 5th the House of Representatives passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) by a vote of 228-206. Two hundred and fifteen Democrats and thirteen Republicans voted for this historic investment in our country. IIJA provides \$1.2 trillion to fix and modernize our nation's roads, bridges, tunnels, ports, power grid, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, broadband infrastructure, and wastewater facilities. Passage of the bill is cause for celebration, as Washington had tried and failed for decades to pass a major bill to upgrade critical transportation and utility infrastructure. President Biden proudly signed the bill into law on November 15th. He was able to reach a compromise in our highly polarized political environment. The IIJA had previously passed the Senate in August by a 69-30 vote, with the support of nineteen Republicans.

The IIJA could not come at a better time, as our

country's infrastructure has been neglected and much of it in a state of disrepair. According to the Federal Highway Administration over 337,502 bridges — over 50% of all bridges in the U.S. — are in bad condition. Similarly, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) found that one out of every five miles of highway pavement is in poor condition. Years of neglect contributed to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan and other places throughout the country. The IIJA includes the largest ever investment in clean water infrastructure upgrades. As extreme weather patterns become more frequent, the need for resilient power lines and reliable transportation measures becomes more urgent. For UAW members the passage of IIJA brings both improvements in public services and job opportunities, as new construction projects will raise the demand for machinery built by UAW members.

Congress and the Biden Administration have an opportunity to make life-changing investments for working families. Congress must now pass the Build Back Better Act (BBBA) which contains several UAW priorities including the Stabenow/Kildee EV tax credit, reduction of prescription drug costs, universal paid family and medical leave, universal pre-k, and strengthened penalties against companies who engage in unfair labor practices. With the bipartisan infrastructure bill in the books, the House and Senate must finish the job by sending the BBBA to President Biden's desk.

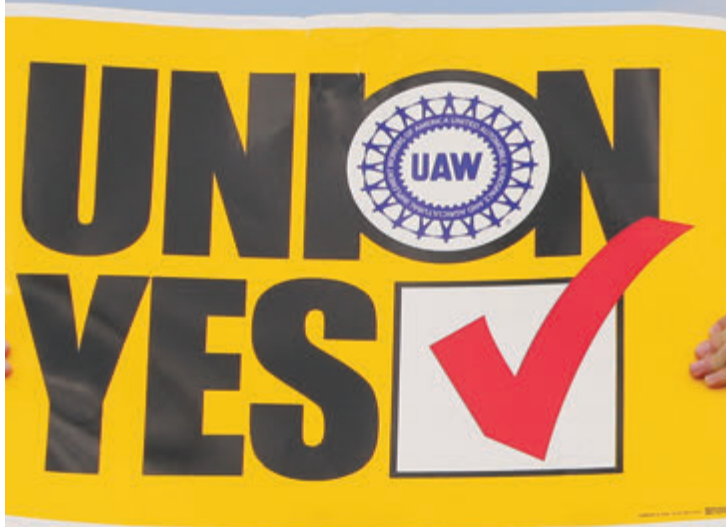
Urge your Representatives and Senators to vote YES on the BBBA now!

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

| | |
|--|--|
| Clean Water | \$55 billion to expand access to clean drinking water for communities. It includes \$15 billion for replacing lead pipes, \$10 billion to remove contaminants in drinking water, and more than \$20 billion for projects that address broader drinking water and wastewater needs. |
| Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Electric Buses | \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of EV chargers in the United States. \$5 billion for the replacement of existing school buses with zero emission and clean school buses from 2022-2026. |
| Surface Transportation | Reauthorizes the surface transportation programs for five years and invest \$110 billion in additional funding to repair the nation's roads and bridges. |
| Broadband/High Speed Internet | \$65 billion to help ensure that every American has access to reliable high-speed internet through a historic investment in broadband infrastructure deployment. |
| Public Transit Infrastructure | \$39 billion of new investment to modernize transit for millions of Americans including buses, rail cars, transit stations and power systems. |
| Transportation Safety | \$11 billion on transportation safety, including programs to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians. |
| Airports and Ports | \$17 billion in port infrastructure and waterways and \$25 billion in airports to address repair and maintenance backlogs, reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports. |
| ATVM Program | Expands the eligibility of the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program to include medium and heavy-duty vehicles, trains, locomotives, maritime vessels, and aircraft. |
| Buy America Requirements | Requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials used in infrastructure projects that receive financial assistance (through grants or loans) are primarily produced in the United States. |
| Electric Grid | \$65 billion to bolster the resiliency of the nation's power grid by building new transmission lines while expanding renewable and clean energy. |
| Passenger and Freight Rail | \$66 billion in additional rail funding to eliminate the Amtrak maintenance backlog and modernize existing rail services and expand lines to new geographic areas. |

Approval of unions hits 60-year high post pandemic

**UAW adds ZF, CA Student
Researchers to its ranks**



The unexpected COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21 hit the American workforce hard, with many -- especially in the hospitality and travel industries -- losing their ability to work, and others -- such as essential healthcare workers -- being overburdened and at risk.

However, public surveys show that one of the positive outcomes of this troubling time, was the overwhelming realization by the general public that unions make a significant difference in the employment experience -- in rights, healthy work environments and safety.

Union approval ratings are now at a 60-year high, and the UAW has welcomed more than 17,000 new members in 2021 alone.

This came at a time when union membership was on a steady decline. Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicate that in 1983, 20.1% of employed Americans were members of a union. By 2019, that share had decreased by roughly half to 10.3%.

However, data clearly shows that as the pandemic hit, and essential workers began to realize that union protections were crucial to their safety and job security, the number of wins for union labor began to add up again.

Specifically, Gallup Poll noted that more Americans approve of labor unions today than at any time since 1965, according to annual Gallup poll results.

Those results also included:

- More than two-thirds of poll respondents - 68% - approved of labor unions.
- Among adults 18-34 years of age, 77% approve of unions.
- Support is also high among those with annual household incomes under \$40,000.
- 90% of Democrats, 47% of Republicans approve of unions.
- Labor union membership remains steady at 9% of U.S. adults.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, Americans have seen the power of unions in action.

Union approval continued to grow during the coronavirus pandemic when millions of workers lost their jobs. "The results of this year's Gallup poll provide unmistakable evidence that more Americans want a voice on the job and a seat at the table," said UAW President Ray Curry.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the UAW role in convening with the Detroit-3 Covid 19 Task Force was essential. Faced with a deadly pandemic and no test to determine exposure, nor a vaccine to protect workers and their families, the UAW and Detroit-3 collaborated and shut down factories to save American lives.

"These actions by the Task Force, and the role the Task Force played in identifying protocols for returning to work," Curry said. "They saved lives and led other industries to adopt these same protocols and policies."

As the year progressed, communities watched as UAW and other union members were on the frontlines, manufacturing PPEs, driving buses, delivering healthcare and food as essential workers. They were also mobilizing in overwhelming numbers to secure passage of the American Rescue Plan, which has provided vital funding for working families, as well as for states, cities, towns and schools.

The union difference is clear: Union members earn more, have more reliable health care coverage and retire with greater financial security.

Recent UAW organizing efforts also demonstrate how people feel around the country about the importance of unions. Just this year the UAW has had these important successes:

ZF JOINS THE UAW

Workers at automotive supplier ZF in Marysville, Michigan reached an agreement this fall to be recognized as being represented by a union. However, the workers went on strike for over a week after a majority of the workers signed up to join the union, but ZF did not accept the 340 ZF employees' decision to join the UAW.

Historically, ZF Marysville has been staffed by UAW Stellantis workers under a UAW contract. During the 2019 negotiations, Stellantis agreed to transfer ZF Marysville workers to other Stellantis locations and have ZF staff the plant with ZF employees. That transition is currently in process.

"These hardworking ZF Marysville workers simply want what other employees at that plant have had," said James Harris, Region 1 UAW Director. "ZF Marysville workers made it clear that they wanted the same voice at the table to bargain for their wages and benefits. They stood up to form their union and ultimately succeeded."

Harris said that following the strike for recognition, ZF workers returned to work and the company subsequently agreed to the voluntary recognition process, which resulted in a majority of ZF workers opting to form a union.





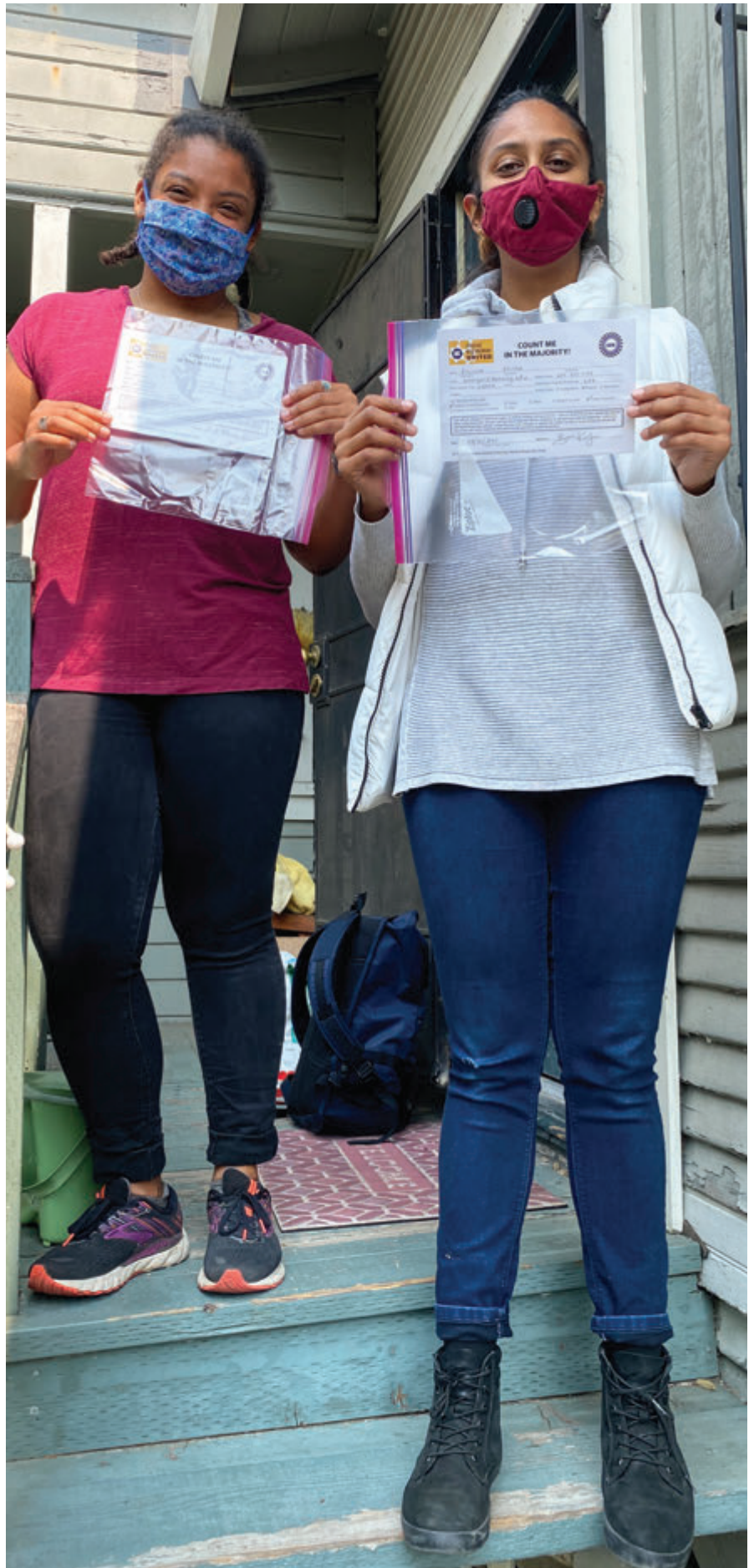
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHERS JOIN UAW

Also in 2021, the majority of California's 17,000 Graduate Student Researchers, Trainees, and Fellows at the ten University of California campuses and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory chose to unionize through Student Researchers United/UAW (SRU-UAW). The union made history as the largest union formed in 2021, and the largest-ever unionization drive of academic student employees.

Graduate Student Researchers are a diverse group of academics who power UC's research mission. From those who have just recently completed their undergraduate work to prestigious fellows and trainees who perform groundbreaking research in their fields, GSRs and other Student Researchers help UC consistently secure more patents than any other university in the world and bring in the billions in grant revenue it takes to do so.

Organizing academic workers is not new for the UAW, which now represents more than 100,000 academic workers at universities across the country, and has recently won unions at Harvard, Columbia, and the University of Washington.

Together, unionized academic workers have fought racist and xenophobic Trump-era travel bans, turned back the Republican Grad Tax, lobbied for more funding for scientific research (including COVID research) and more. UAW now represents more than 50,000 employees at UC, which is the state of California's largest employer.



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“WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO FIGHT AGAINST THE THINGS THAT WE OPPOSE—WE MUST FIGHT WITH EQUAL COURAGE AND EQUAL DEDICATION FOR THE THINGS THAT WE BELIEVE IN.”

-WALTER REUTHER



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Remembering

Richard Trumka

National Trade Unionists lost a champion earlier this year when Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO passed away. Trumka grew up in the coal mining town of Nemaquin, Pennsylvania and became a third-generation coal miner at the age of 19 following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

Those experiences in the coal mines were very influential in Trumka's approach to working families. It was in the mines where he began making his mark in the labor movement. In 1982, he climbed the ranks and was elected president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and became the union's youngest president at the age of 33. While working in the mines he was not only active in the union, but he also acquired his accounting degree from Penn State University followed by a law degree in 1974 from Villanova University Law School.

Historians often cite one of the most memorable acts as

president of UMWA is when Richard led a strike against the Pittston Coal Company. The Pittston miners went on strike against Pittston Coal Company between 1989 and 1990 for not paying into health care and pension funds. The strike succeeded in bringing back both health care and pension funds.

In 1995, Trumka was elected the Secretary of Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, where he served for 14 years before he became president in 2009. He served as president of the 12.5-million-member organization from 2009 until his death in 2021.

Trumka, an influential advocate for working families on Capitol Hill, was very involved in politics and believed that the labor movement way forward was through being involved in politics. He helped to improve the lives of working families by fighting for labor rights against large corporations. Trumka cared about social and economic justice including attaining citizenship for undocumented workers. He focused efforts to improve wages, safety in the workplace, and protection for the opportunity to form a union.

"Anyone who knew him, he was a tireless fighter of workers' rights and human rights. The arc of history will remember this great man as a beacon of light during this trying time for working men and women," said UAW President Ray Curry.



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