



December 26, 2023

President David McCall
United Steelworkers
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear President McCall,

Thank you for all that the United Steelworkers do each day to keep America moving forward. President Biden and Vice President Harris pride themselves on being the most pro-union president and vice president in history. We received your questionnaire and are writing this letter to respond to your areas of interest, highlight some of the many ways President Biden and Vice President Harris have worked to support United Steelworkers' members and share how they will finish the job when re-elected in 2024.

In 2020, President Biden ran on a pledge to rebuild the backbone of America – the middle class – and to create an economy that works for families and communities who have long been written off and left behind. Even as he faced an immediate economic crisis when he took office, President Biden recognized it wouldn't be enough to just return to the failed trickle-down policies of the past—an economy where corporations and the wealthy got massive tax cuts while critical investments in the American people were starved, entire communities were hollowed out and stripped of hope and dignity, and the hallmarks of a middle-class life were slipping further and further out of reach. But, MAGA Republicans are still pursuing that agenda to this day, including Donald Trump and other Republican candidates for president.

President Biden and Vice President Harris came into office with a fundamentally different economic vision—that we need to grow the economy from the middle out and the bottom up—not the top down. Central to this is the role of organized labor to build an economy that works for working people. An economy where we build more in America, empower and invest in American workers, and promote competition to lower costs for working families.

The President and Vice President's vision is working. Under the Biden Administration, we have had the longest stretch of unemployment below 4% in a half-century and 14 million jobs have been created – more jobs in less than three years than any other president in a full term. The jobs are good-paying jobs, and wages are higher now than at any point before the pandemic, after adjusting for inflation. This is in stark contrast to Donald Trump who was the first president since the Great Depression to leave with fewer jobs than when he came into office.

While Donald Trump promised and failed to bring manufacturing back home, President Biden has led a manufacturing renaissance. Under President Biden's leadership, the U.S. gained an average of 23,000 manufacturing jobs per month, after losing an average of 4,000 manufacturing jobs per month under President Trump. As a result of the Biden Administration's support for the manufacturing ecosystem, companies are investing in America again and building out their manufacturing footprints – with \$600 billion in private-sector manufacturing and clean energy investments already announced – creating jobs and opportunities in communities across the country. Inflation-adjusted spending on construction in manufacturing has doubled since President Biden took office, the most of any president on record, while it fell during Trump's term.

These successes are due to President Biden and Vice President Harris' commitment to invest in America and American workers, including through securing and effectively implementing historic legislation to invest in infrastructure, semiconductor, and clean energy legislation. The infrastructure law expands Made in America standards to ensure that federally funded infrastructure projects use American-made iron, steel, construction materials, and manufactured products, and the clean energy legislation provides enhanced tax credits to companies who use domestic content, pay prevailing wages, and use registered apprentices, including in traditional energy communities and low-income communities. And, in his first week in office, President Biden established a Made in America Office to lead a whole-of-government effort to ensure that American taxpayer dollars – dollars delivered in his historic legislation to invest in America and beyond – are spent on products made in America by American workers.

President Biden and Vice President Harris believe the purchase of U.S Steel, an iconic American-owned, unionized company by a foreign entity deserves serious scrutiny, and their administration is ready to review and act, as appropriate, on the findings of any potential federal investigation. They firmly share steel workers' commitment to protecting American manufacturing and that supports family sustaining union jobs. They are committed to doing everything they can to ensure steel workers in the U.S. can compete on a level playing field, through policies that both combat unfair trade practices and recognize that a strong U.S domestic steel industry is vital to our economy and national security.

President Biden and Vice President Harris are also working to ensure jobs are good jobs by encouraging union organizing and collective bargaining because they know unions not only improve wages, benefits, and working conditions, but economic security and a pathway to the middle class. The first sitting president to join a picket line, President Biden also appointed the first union leader to be Secretary of Labor in nearly half a century after Trump appointed one of the most pro-business cabinets in U.S. history. He immediately fired Donald Trump's anti-labor general counsel from the National Labor Relations Board and appointed pro-labor officials. President Biden and Vice President Harris launched a whole-of-government effort to promote union organizing and collective bargaining, and, for the first time, worked to ensure there are labor advisors across agencies so that the entire government considers the impact of policies on workers. President Biden and Vice President Harris have increased funding and continues to fight for more funding for agencies enforcing federal labor laws – funding which Donald Trump worked to slash. Under President Biden and Vice President Harris's leadership, support for unions has grown to its highest level in more than half a century and, over the last two years, union petitions rose 58%. The new petitions include, for example, workers from Blue Bird in Fort Valley, Georgia, who voted to unionize with USW, came to the White House to speak to President Biden about their efforts and will manufacture electric school buses funded by President Biden and Vice President Harris' legislation to invest in America. President Biden and Vice President Harris will continue to fight to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to make it easier for workers to organize and collectively bargain.

The Biden administration is working to make workplaces safer and ensure workers can return home safely from work each day. For example, the Labor Department proposed a rule to better prevent the nation's miners from getting sick or dying – including from lung cancer, kidney disease, and respiratory disease – due to exposure to silica dust at work – a rule Trump failed to propose after also delaying a similar rule in the construction industry. And, while the Trump administration rolled back efforts to prevent catastrophic workplace disasters that can injure or kill workers, the Biden administration has proposed a rule to better prevent chemical disasters and is prioritizing enforcement efforts in industries more likely to handle dust that can cause fires and explosions. While MAGA Republicans running for president continue to choose to side with big corporations and push policies that would put workers' lives in danger, President Biden and Vice President Harris will continue to protect workers.

President Biden and Vice President Harris are also working to elevate labor standards globally to reduce unfair incentives to ship jobs overseas and ensure American workers have a fair chance to lead the world.

The Biden administration has done more than any previous administration to re-align the US-China relationship and compete from a position of strength, using a full suite of tools to protect jobs and national security. They are working to enforce rules against unfair trade and labor practices, including combating forced labor. They are working with the European Union to fundamentally shift the paradigm for trade and production in steel and aluminum from a race to the bottom to a race to the top, including by addressing the overcapacity of these products in countries like China that are using unfair policies and more carbon emissions-intensive practices. The Biden-Harris Administration has also worked to implement the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA), which is not just a trophy to be admired on a shelf but needs to continuously be used effectively to make a difference for workers. For example, the Biden administration for the first time used USMCA's Rapid Response Mechanism to quickly target specific facilities in Mexico where workers are being denied their rights to organize and bargain, leading to more collective bargaining agreements between Mexican workers and manufacturers, like automotive parts producers Panasonic Automotive Systems and Saint Gobain México. When Mexican workers are free to form a union and empowered to bargain for better wages and working conditions, it helps raise the bargaining power of U.S. workers, too.

President Biden and Vice President Harris are also working to lower costs for families. Over the last six months, inflation has been at the pre-pandemic level of 2 percent. President Biden has warned corporations not to price gouge and has called on companies to instead pass these savings on to the consumers. President Biden was the first president to take on Big Pharma and win – lowering prescription drug prices and capping insulin at \$35 for seniors. They have also called on Congress to curb inflation in prescription drug prices and cap the prices of insulin at \$35 for all Americans. They have also lowered home energy costs, health insurance premiums, and the costs of many cars– all of which MAGA Republican candidates for Congress have pledged to undo. President Biden and Vice President Harris will continue to invest in the American people and fight to lower the costs of housing, child care, long-term care, and more by making the wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share and slashing wasteful spending on special interests. No one earning less than \$400,000 per year will pay a penny in new taxes. The president and vice president's commitment to workers and their families stands in stark contrast to MAGA Republicans, who are more focused on expanding the Trump tax scam that protected big corporations' bottom lines, lined the pockets of the ultra-rich, and created incentives for corporations to ship American jobs overseas.

President Biden and Vice President Harris will also continue to protect retirement security. Before President Biden took office, between two and three million union workers and retirees, including Steelworkers members, were at risk of losing their retirement security through no fault of their own. While Donald Trump failed to rescue their pensions, President Biden secured the historic Butch Lewis Act to prevent significant cuts to multiemployer pension plans. His administration already allocated nearly \$2.2 billion to save two multiemployer pension funds affecting 110,000 USW members and retirees. And, while Donald Trump, Nikki Haley and the rest of the MAGA Republicans have repeatedly made clear their intention to gut Social Security and Medicare and have the records to back it up, President Biden will protect Social Security and Medicare and work with Congress to strengthen them.

We hope for your continued partnership as President Biden and Vice President Harris work to finish the job of building the middle class from the bottom up and the middle out.

Sincerely,

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