

Support for Indoor Air Quality

- WHEREAS, Employers, because of the climate in the state, depend heavily on air conditioning and ventilation systems to provide comfortable living and working conditions; and
- WHEREAS, Scientific studies of indoor air pollution in the workplace support growing concerns over the hazards that poor indoor air quality pose to the health and safety of American workers; and
- WHEREAS, Studies indicate that Americans spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors and as much as 60 percent of that time in their workplaces; and
- WHEREAS, In a growing number of new and renovated buildings, improper design and inadequate maintenance of ventilation systems can contribute to polluted indoor air toxic contaminants, bacteria, viruses and allergy-causing fungi, which have been linked to employee health problems, ranging from chronic respiratory ailments, headaches and fatigue to life-threatening illnesses; and
- WHEREAS, Workplace health and safety officials must recognize that identification of pollutants, maintenance or replacement of inadequate ventilation systems, and modifications to building design to provide adequate fresh air are essential to assure all workers a safe job site; and
- WHEREAS, The Sheet Metal Workers International Association has established itself as an expert authority on indoor air quality and maintenance of ventilation systems; and
- WHEREAS, This resolution is consistent with AFL-CIO policy expressed in an Executive Council Statement of February, 1988 regarding indoor air quality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that District 100 will work towards the enactment of legislation in the respective legislatures to require indoor air quality testing and establish standards to ensure a comfortable, healthy workplace;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that inasmuch as a number of substances are proven pollutants of the air we breathe, no one source be singled out by employers, or state or local officials;

BE IF FINALLY RESOLVED that regardless of the outcome of legislative activity, indoor air quality should be tested to determine the effects of indoor environments on worker health and productivity, and to develop standards for clean indoor air. Ventilation systems should also be evaluated by qualified, union-affiliated contractors to assure proper and effective performance.

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