



**TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA  
AFL / CIO**

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Local 562

**JFK-LGA-EWR-PHL-SJU-BOS**

**[www.twu562.org](http://www.twu562.org)**

Aug 2, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Local 562:

It's been a week since the ballots were mailed to our membership. By now many of you have already voted but as always I'm sure there are a number who have either not made a decision or simply have not voted yet. I can not stress enough that we must get every vote in that we can. In the past we have had TA's pass into agreements with a margin that was less than the number of people from New York that simply didn't bother to vote.

On a positive note the E-boards and Presidents of both Tulsa and AFW have come out against this TA, however the International took it upon themselves to put an insert along with the ballot that lists all the reasons that you should vote YES without covering all the reasons you should vote NO. Clearly the insert was leaning more towards a Yes vote than a NO vote and it's important that you remember that this was written by people who will not have to live under the agreement. They will continue to draw their six figure salaries and get increases that either keep pace with or outpace inflation while you settle for a five year contract that will leave our inflation adjusted base pay around 9% lower in 2013 than it was in 2008 (34% lower than 2003). The negotiating committee had nothing to do with the insert. I expressed my objection to the International as soon as I became aware of it, when members called me after receiving it. Jim Little claimed there was no endorsement and Don Videtich simply claimed "We can do that".

In the end two groups make the ultimate decision, the International, who owns custody of the contract and the membership who either accepts or rejects the deal. Some claim that the International will simply sign it into place like in 2003, but this is not 2003. In 2003 the deal passed a ratification vote, no such vote has taken place on this agreement.

So right now we have the leadership of 514, 567, 562, 564, 501, 510 and a split at Local 565 all recommending that this TA be rejected. Combined they represent more than 2/3s of the membership. On the other side we have the ATD and several Locals who advocate passage either overtly or through omission, like the insert. Unfortunately the International was able to get their message out to 100% of the voters through the insert where as we have to rely on more traditional means. Despite the sneaky little trick of the International I'm confident that this will be rejected but its very important that the margin be as large as possible with as high of a percentage of eligible voters voting. This sends a clear message that a little tweaking simply will not do and that the membership does care.

If you have not received a ballot please follow the instructions for a duplicate ballot request on our website.

Fraternally;

Bob Owens

President

TWU Local 562