

**SUPPORT U.S. POSTAL WORKERS – BOYCOTT STAPLES**

- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Postal Service has a no-bid, sweetheart deal with the big-box chain Staples to operate postal counters in more than 80 stores and four states; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Postal Service has plans to expand this operation to more than 1,500 Staples stores across the United States including Staples locations in Michigan; and
- WHEREAS:** These postal counters are staffed by low-wage, high-turnover employees with little training and no credentials to handle U.S. mail; and
- WHEREAS:** Consumers are increasingly concerned about identity theft at large retail chains and privatizing the handling of U.S. mail will jeopardize the sanctity and security of the mail; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Postal Service and Staples are refusing to staff the postal counters with unionized, uniformed U.S. Postal Service employees, who have the training and experience to properly handle U.S. mail, and who have sworn an oath to uphold the highest standards of public service; and
- WHEREAS:** Non-union “postal” jobs at Staples will inevitably replace living-wage, union jobs of U.S. Postal Service employees; and
- WHEREAS:** Some members of Congress would close U.S. Post Offices if a privately operated postal counter is within the same geographic area; and
- WHEREAS:** Instead of offering lower quality service and selling off public assets, the U.S. Postal Service can and should use its unmatched nationwide network of people and facilities to better serve the public with expanded hours and new services, such as low-cost banking, which could aid millions of low-income consumers; and
- WHEREAS:** Michigan educators care about public service, protecting good-paying jobs and maintaining universal, affordable mail services for the U.S. public; and
- WHEREAS:** AFT Michigan opposes privatization of public services in schools, colleges and universities and other public institutions; and
- WHEREAS:** AFT Michigan and postal employees are fighting a common battle against privatization; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Michigan educators frequently purchase school supplies, office supplies, and other products sold at Staples Stores; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan supports the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) in its efforts to protect good-paying jobs and its insistence on the highest possible standards of customer service; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** AFT Michigan opposes efforts by the U.S. Postal Service to privatize operations and to sell off valuable public assets; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That members of AFT Michigan, along with friends, colleagues and family members, are urged to **no longer shop at Staples stores** until further notice; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan will submit and advocate at the upcoming national American Federation of Teachers convention to be held this July in Los Angeles, California for a **boycott of Staples** to begin during the back-to-school period this summer; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED:** That this **call to boycott Staples** will be communicated immediately to members of AFT Michigan to our local unions, and to our sister unions and to the news media.

Submitted by:

Resolutions & Legislative Committee (May 6, 2014)

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