



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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"AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"

March 8, 2021

Dear Representative:

On behalf of more than 150,000 members of the Transport Workers Union (TWU), I am writing to urge you to support the *Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act* when it comes to the floor this week. This bill directly addresses the needs of the middle-class in the 21st century and will help ensure that our next generation economy is one that puts working families first.

Our labor laws are designed to provide access to the time-tested process of collective bargaining. Under the National Labor Relations Act, certain workers, through their elected representatives, negotiate with their employer over the terms of their labor. How often will they work? How much will they be paid? What benefits will they receive beyond their salary? Through collective bargaining, these questions are answered in a unique way for each work group and at each company. This is an incredibly flexible process that has allowed TWU to successfully negotiate contracts for everyone from airline mechanics to bikeshare workers.


Bikeshare workers at Motivate (a company owned by Lyft) are often considered part of the "gig economy". They are also proud TWU members with a national contract. For many of these union members, the majority of their interaction with their employer is through an app – very similar to the way rideshare drivers interact with their employers. These workers move around a large geographic area collecting and repositioning bikes in the same way a rideshare driver would pick up and move passengers. Unlike rideshare drivers, however, bikeshare workers' rights are not seen as incompatible with their company's business model.

These workers and many others are proof that collective bargaining is powerful enough to live on into our future. None of the more than 200 current contracts that TWU has negotiated and implemented is identical – in fact many of them would work at no other company or among any other work group. While the process mandated under our labor laws may be the same, the outcomes vary wildly, allowing for growth and change as circumstances shift and technologies evolve. All workers deserve access to that process in order to better their standard of living.

Unfortunately, the proportion of unionized workers in the U.S. is near a 90-year low because of structural hurdles which make joining a new union very difficult.

The PRO Act would directly address these issues and give workers across the entire economy equal access to the collective bargaining process. In order ensure workers' rights keep pace with the new economy, the Transport Workers Union strongly urges you to vote yes on the PRO Act and to oppose any weakening amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Samuelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

John Samuelson
International President