



SAN PEDRO DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Resolution to Support ILWU and Community Jobs

WHEREAS the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) is at risk of losing up to 1,500 jobs with the possibility of a loss of up to 10,000 jobs over the next 10 years if the terminal operators in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach continue with plans to replace our community workforce with automated cargo moving equipment; and

WHEREAS this move to automation will effectively eliminate a huge sector of the Los Angeles/Long Beach port community work force in terms of direct jobs, not to mention indirect jobs, thereby depriving the working class of good paying jobs and detrimentally impacting our local economy from small businesses to the housing market and our Local and State tax base; and

WHEREAS the December 2018 McKinsey & Company Report, as reported in numerous trade journals such as the 12/13/18 Journal of Commerce, found that terminals implementing automated terminals actually experienced a loss in productivity and that any benefits were outweighed by the costs at this time; and

WHEREAS the Port of Los Angeles will decide March 21st whether or not to provide a permit to APM terminals that employs more than half of the work force on the Los Angeles waterfront; and this permit would allow APM Terminals to bring in battery packs that will run automated equipment by way of a wi-fi network;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Pedro Democratic Club should take a position to support the ILWU, labor, and the workers of Los Angeles by requesting that the Port of Los Angeles decline such permit and/or ask the Port of Los Angeles delay granting of the permit until it has had time to do more in depth research on this automation technology and its cost and benefits, including a full report on how such worker-replacing electric powered technologies will impact the local economy in terms of direct jobs, indirect jobs, the housing market, environment, and our tax base.

February 25, 2019