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LIUNA Endorses Senator Barack Obama for President

LIUNA Calls Senator Obama the Candidate Who Will Create Good Jobs and Fight for the Men and Women Who Build Our Country

Washington, DC (June 6, 2008) – LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States following a 10-month membership-based process that culminated in a unanimous vote of the Union’s General Executive Board.

“The men and women of LIUNA, who go to work every day building and servicing America, will support a candidate that will stand up for working families. Senator Obama is that candidate,” said LIUNA General President Terence M. O’Sullivan. “He will fight for good jobs and a stronger economy, he will fight for the necessary resources to build our basic infrastructure, such as highways, bridges, dams and schoolhouses, and he will lead our country forward with health care reform and true retirement security.”

O’Sullivan said, “Senator Obama offers the promise of a new day in American politics, a day in which millions more working voters participate in the process and a day in which the voices of working people rise above corporate money in Washington, D.C.”

O’Sullivan said Obama’s honesty, integrity and leadership will bring about the change America needs to move the country in the right direction. “As a charismatic leader, Senator Obama will unite America around the politics of change and America certainly needs a change from the Bush Administration,” said O’Sullivan. “We look forward to joining together in communities around the country between now and November, to reach out to working families and put their issues in the forefront of a plan for change. Citizens of this country will feel the power of Obama’s commitment to improving the lives of working men and women.”

O’Sullivan praised the full field of contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination. “Every candidate for the Democratic nomination made the case on behalf of America’s working families,” he said. In particular, O’Sullivan said that Senator Hillary Clinton has waged a campaign that raised issues that matter to working families. “Senator Clinton has been a friend of this Union and a warrior and champion for working people. She has stood up for the hard working men and women of this nation and we know she will continue to fight the good fight. LIUNA thanks her for her spirit and her passion throughout this campaign and for her dedicated service to the country.”

LIUNA will work to make its endorsement meaningful by mobilizing its half-million members through an unprecedented member outreach and mobilization program that will use member-to-member contact on jobsites and in homes, communication through direct mail, robo-calling, text-messaging, email and websites.

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“We will make sure that every member knows the issues,” said O’Sullivan. “That includes not just Senator Obama’s work on behalf of working families, but John McCain’s record during his 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. We respect his service to this country, but John McCain has worked to undermine the family-supporting Davis-Bacon Act, has tried to negate the work of proud Laborers by supporting the creation of a helper sub-classification, and has supported trade agreements that ship good jobs overseas. He has also attacked working people, good paying jobs and secure retirement by attacking pensions and health care plans and with his persistent opposition to investing in the highways, bridges, waterways and other basics that working America depends on,” continued O’Sullivan.

A key part of LIUNA’s voter registration effort – Make a Call to Build America – began May 29th when more than 12,000 members were contacted by fellow members in a nationwide “virtual” voter registration phone-bank. The effort will continue on July 10th with the next Make a Call to Build America night, followed by two more evenings during the summer, with a goal of increasing voter registration by 10 percent, particularly in key battleground states.

LIUNA’s endorsement process is built around endorsing with at least 60 percent of member support. The Union did not make an endorsement during the primaries because, according to several Peter D. Hart Research polls of members, Senator Clinton and Senator Obama remained nearly even in support – but the polls repeatedly showed that more than 60 percent of members want a Democrat in the White House.

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The half-million members of LIUNA are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of 10 million workers who build America.