

Conclusion

None of this will be easy. Environmental issues involve difficult technical, economic and political questions. In the era of globalization, we have witnessed the power of new economic forces destroy well-known companies and the jobs and communities that they supported. We have witnessed massive economic dislocation. We have also come to realize that these same economic forces, if unchecked, can also destroy our environment with even more disastrous economic consequences than the 2005 hurricanes or the pine bark beetle of western Canada. As daunting as the problems are, we believe that meeting such challenges also holds the promise of a better life.

As trade unionists we are fundamentally optimistic in our belief that humankind only sets such problems for itself as it can solve. The issue is

not simply our ability to solve environmental challenges. The issue is how they will be solved and to whose benefit.

Economic and environmental sustainability are the keys to our success, both as a union and as citizens of our two countries. These must become the watchwords of our union. Are our employers embracing these two principles? Are our elected political leaders? If we believe in a future of Good Jobs, A Clean Environment, and A Safer World, then we must act.

An essential part of our moral responsibility as union leaders is to defend the long-term interests of working people. It has been said that we inherit the earth from our parents. But in reality, we borrow it from our children. It is our children's world. We must not fail to protect it.



International Executive Board Unanimously Supports Securing Our Children's World

On March 1, the members of the International Executive Board of the United Steelworkers (USW) voted unanimously to support the recommendations set forth in the report, *Securing Our Children's World*.

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