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Contact: Corey Bearak (ATU 1056 Policy & Political Director) (718) 343-6779/ (516) 343-6207

ATU Rallies in D.C. to call on Congress to pass the President's jobs plan

Four packed busloads and more of members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1056 joined with their brothers and sisters in organized labor at the *From the Emancipator to the Liberator March and Rally for Jobs And Justice* organized by The National Action Network today (Saturday, October 15, 2011) at the National Sylvan Theater, 15th Street and Independence Avenue in Washington, D.C. In conjunction with ATU 1056's participation, I. Daneek Miller, President and Business Agent of ATU Local 1056, represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division, issued the following statement:

“As I stated when ATU joined our Brothers and Sisters at *Occupy Wall Street* just ten days back, everyday more and more Americans grasp an important symbolism: More and more American understand that too many of those ultra rich folks – including one holding public office back home, just fail to grasp that they need us to become and remain wealthy. They depend on us to buy their goods and to keep the economy going; they need more Americans working so let's all stand together and get Congress to pass the President's Jobs plan. Without us folks here in D.C, including those taking a daily stand on a certain street in NYC's financial district, forget about Wall Street. In the spirit of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., heed a message that unites we the people: that's right WE THE PEOPLE -- the workers, white, black, brown and yellow, Progressives and even Tea Partiers – who perhaps need to be better educated on the issues, WE THE PEOPLE keep the rich so wealthy. To them ultra wealthy folk and those who do their bidding all who seem to require a re-education, I deliver a simple message: It's high time they step up to the plate like their colleague Mr. Buffet and stop using their resources to avoid paying their fair share. Their objections and the misguided mindset of those who buy in to their ill-thinking leads to bad policies that hurt America, its economy and its people. We challenge that mindset; we challenge those policies. If everyone pitches in – including the wealthy for a change, we can realize the resources we need to get America back on track, including a much needed investment in public transportation which time and time again helps drive economic growth. **That's why Congress must pass the President's jobs plan.**”

“To sustain and rebuild economic growth requires a strong and vibrant transit system. Yet back in NYC, MTA management eliminated core services in the boroughs. Less than eight million dollars would restore the cuts to the bus service. Queens where our members work, primarily depends on buses more than subways and rails. The conservatives and their media and elected official allies – working for those wealthy elites who forced the recent and past meltdowns – seek to shift the burden for financing relief from the wealthy to public employees whose seamless contributions remain at the forefront of our civil society. We reject the corporate and political assault on the fundamental belief that if you work hard, you deserve a good job with a decent wage, affordable health care and dignity in retirement. Congress must pass the Jobs bill now!”

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Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056, One Cross Island Plaza,
133-33 Brookville Blvd., Room 112, Rosedale, NY 11422-1491
(718) 949-6444 * Local1056@aol.com * www.Local1056.org