



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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"AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"

April 22, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL AND USPS MAIL

Ambassador of Finland to the United States
Mikko Hautala
Embassy of Finland
3301 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Hautala,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 155,000 Transport Workers Union of America members in the United States who stand in solidarity with our Finland colleagues in opposition to the dangerous and radical moves to undermine the voice of Finnish workers.

Our Finnish colleagues informed us about the government's most serious attack on workers' rights and social security in the history of the Finnish welfare state.

The Finnish labour market and welfare state are among the most successful globally. At the heart of the Finnish labour model is the tradition of social dialogue between trade unions, employers, and the government - which has led to sectoral negotiations on collective agreements, tripartite negotiations on new legislative proposals, and the expansion of the welfare state. This social contract is now being torn apart by the Finnish government.

If enacted, these reforms would set the country back decades and take it further away from its Nordic neighbors. Instead of being a world leader, Finland will be viewed as regressive, and any claims of moral leadership will be called into question.

We condemn this plan to start a massive reform package, by restricting the right to strike, in order to push through the other cuts without any real possibility of protests.

We stand in support of our Finnish colleagues and are prepared to act in solidarity. We strongly urge you to demand the withdrawal of the proposed changes to the Finnish labour law.

Best regards,

John Samuelsen
International President, Transport Workers Union of America

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