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S.1213-0089R

DATE INTRODUCED: December 5th, 2012

SPONSORED BY: Sen. Rojas

COMMITTEE:

SUBJECT: Coca-Cola Resolution

COMMITTEE VOTE:

SENATE VOTE: 13-4-11

LEGISLATIVE RESULT: Pass

PROPOSAL REGARDING THE COCA-COLA COMPANY

WHEREAS more than 3,000 trade unionists have been assassinated in Colombia since 1990; and

WHEREAS the Coca-Cola Company and its Colombian bottlers are being sued in the United States under the Alien Claims Tort Act for having "contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that used extreme violence and murdered, tortured, and unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders.";

WHEREAS a fact-finding delegation of labor, educator and student representatives led by New York City Council member Hiram Monserrate and including members of AFT, AFSCME/CSEA and CWA concluded, based on a 10-day trip to Colombia in January of 2004, that Coca-Cola is complicit in human rights abuses in Colombia" and that its "complicity is deepened by its repeated pattern of bringing criminal charges against union activists who have spoken out about the company's collusion with the paramilitaries.";

WHEREAS various courts, government agencies and independent studies have confirmed community concerns in India that the Coca-Cola Company is responsible for polluting the groundwater and soil, distributing toxic waste as fertilizer, causing severe water shortages and selling drinks with high levels of pesticides in India;

WHEREAS the Coca-Cola Company uses sugar harvested by children in El Salvador who, in the process of harvesting, suffer from smoke inhalation, burns, and cuts from machetes yet are not provided with health care;

WHEREAS union activists in Colombia and throughout the world are calling on their union brothers and sisters to boycott Coca-Cola,

WHEREAS 16 Black and Latin@ workers have filed a suit against the Coca Cola company due to its racial discrimination against Black and Latin@ workers.

WHEREAS Black and Hispanic production workers at Coca-Cola are typically assigned to the most undesirable and physically dangerous positions, and to tests that are outside of their job descriptions.

Passed by the Senate

I, Jennifer DeVito attest this is a true and valid record
of action taken by the Student Association Senate on
the date provided.

Jennifer DeVito, Secretary

WHEREAS managers contravene the established seniority system by giving better jobs and more overtime hours to white workers with less seniority than minority workers.

WHEREAS several of the Plaintiffs have found, opportunities for advancement and promotion within the company are routinely biased against minority workers.

WHEREAS plaintiffs who have dared to speak up about the discrimination to managers or human resources have not only found no resolution to their concerns, but instead have faced swift retaliation from the white managers. This retaliation has come in the form of unwanted scrutiny and unfair disciplinary actions, up to the point of suspension and termination for some of the Plaintiffs.

WHEREAS the Plaintiffs frequently witness overt displays of racism in the plant in the form of offensive remarks and ridicule, while suffering from racially charged harassment from supervisors. This hostile work environment has caused many of the Plaintiffs significant emotional harm, to the point where they must seek therapy to deal with the stress from work.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SA Senate recommends to University at Albany that the campus not serve Coca-Cola products on its campus, including at its events, meetings, conferences, and delegate assemblies,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SA Senate recommends to the University at Albany that it urge all SUNY campuses to press for the termination of contracts with Coca-Cola.

Arthur Rushforth, *President*

Passed by the Senate

I, Jennifer DeVito attest this is a true and valid record of action taken by the Student Association Senate on the date provided.

Jennifer DeVito, *Secretary*