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Theo Chino

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Dear Comrades of the Ethics Committee,

Included in this package is our formal request to become full members of the Socialist International. We hope that you will find our ideology in line with the Socialist International.

Most of us are lifetime members of the Democratic Socialists of America and founding members of Social Democrats of America. Those of us who are dual citizens are also a member of our country's Socialist party.

Social Democrats in the United States are fragmented under various organizations such as the Working Families Party, New York Progressive Action Network, Our Revolution, Humanity First, the left-wing of the Democratic party, the Democratic Socialist Party, Social Democrats USA, and various Socialist International party members with a presence in the United States.

With Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's surprise victory in 2018, Americans have been exposed to Socialism in a different light. However, her victory is not enough to single-handedly change the course of the liberal course of the United States. She is caught between DSA and the Liberal faction of the Democratic Party.

Because it has become fashionable to be openly Socialist, an opportunity presented itself to unite all the progressive forces under a single roof with bylaws that will allow the organization to function with ten members or a million members.

Our primary hope was that the DSA radical extremist element of the Fourth International would eventually be pushed out, but that has proven impossible. Before 2017, Democratic Socialist of America bylaws were very permissive as to be as inclusive as possible. It was not a problem because the organization was small and did not need an official voice.

Exploiting the lack of clear framework, the Fourth International members continuously changed the bylaws to apply the 21 original conditions our parties refused to adopt in 1921.

In 2016, Bernie, a valid Social Democrat, exposed Americans to Socialists' ideas such as Medicare for All, Free Education, a living wage, and opportunity for all. In 2018, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez beat a powerful Democratic incumbent. Meanwhile, a minority of DSA members took the organization out of Socialist International without debate.

The legacy of Social Democrats of America is the legacy of the Socialist International 140 years of progressive history dating back to 1879. The first act that voted on equality between women and men was Stuttgart's 1907 Socialist International meeting. The members of Social Democrats of America are part of that legacy.

At the 2019 meeting, our Comrade Pedro Sanchez related the story of Fernando de Los Rios, who visited Moscow in 1920 and refused Lenin's framework. SDA is rising in the ashes of DSA.

Corporate America and McCarthy joined forces to vilify a worldwide movement bringing progress against the madness of the industrial revolution. McCarthy, using the weight of the United States government, corrupted the Socialist label in the United States for generations. Steve Bannon is slowly destroying the fabric of the European Union by infusing hate and xenophobia. We are fighting him locally, but we need to unite to fight his hate rhetoric worldwide.

Socialism is not reminiscent of the past but about building the future.

We do that by learning from the mistakes of all the Socialists leaders worldwide; building the future starts at home outside our doorstep, in our communities, but also inside the Socialist International.

Our goal as Social Democrats of America is to influence all forms of government, from the local School Board, which dictates the education curriculum, local Special Districts that manage the local utilities, all the way to the Presidency of the United States.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theo Chino', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Theo Chino
Interim First National Secretary of the Social Democrats of America