

Solidarity with Ukraine!

THE UKRAINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK (U.S.) reaches out to unions, communities and individuals from diverse backgrounds to build moral, political and material support for the people of Ukraine in their resistance to Russia's criminal invasion and their struggle for an independent, egalitarian, and democratic country.

The war against Ukraine is a horrible and destructive disaster in the human suffering and economic devastation it has already caused, not only for Ukraine and its people but also in its impact on global hunger and energy supplies, on the world environmental crisis, and on the lives of ordinary Russian people who are sacrificed for Putin's war. The war also carries the risk of escalation to a direct confrontation among military great powers, with unthinkable possible consequences.

It is urgent to end this war as soon as possible. This can only be achieved through the success of Ukraine's resistance to Russia's invasion. Ukraine is fighting a legitimate war of self-defense, indeed a war for its survival as a nation. Calling for "peace" in the abstract is meaningless in these circumstances.

The Ukraine Solidarity Network (U.S.) supports Ukraine's war of resistance, its right to determine the means and objectives of its own struggle – and we support its right to obtain the weapons it needs from any available source. We are united in our support for Ukraine's people, their military and civilian defense against aggression, and for the reconstruction of the country in the interests of the majority of its population. We stand in opposition to all domination by powerful nations and states over smaller ones and oppressed peoples.

We uphold the following principles and goals:

- 1) We strive for a world free of global power domination at the expense of smaller nations. We oppose war and authoritarianism no matter which state it comes from, and support the right of self-determination and self-defense for any oppressed nation.
- 2) We support *Ukraine's victory against the Russian invasion*, and its right to reparations to meet the costs of reconstruction after the colossal destruction it is suffering.
- 3) The reconstruction of Ukraine also demands the *cancellation of its debts to international financial institutions*. Aid to Ukraine must come without strings attached, above all without crushing debt burdens.
- 4) We recognize the suffering that this war imposes on people in Russia, most intensely on the ethnic and religious minority sectors of the Russian Federation which are disproportionately impacted by forced military conscription. We salute the brave Russian antiwar forces speaking out and demonstrating in the face of severe repression, and we are encouraged by the popular resistance to the draft of soldiers to become cannon fodder for Putin's unjust war of aggression.
- 5) We seek to build connections to progressive organizations and movements in Ukraine and with the labor movement, which represents the biggest part of Ukrainian civil society, and to link Ukrainian civic organizations, marginalized communities and trade unions with counterpart organizations in the United States. We support Ukrainian struggles for ensuring just and fair labor rights for its population, especially during the war, as there are no military reasons to implement laws that threaten the social rights of Ukrainians, including those who are fighting in the front lines.

Plan for more Bikes in NYC

We need to move to more transportation that's safe and easier to manage traffic as well. Just walking around in New York City you can end up dirty from all the pollution that comes from cars.

There is a considerable amount of traffic from Ubers and other internet based Taxi services that create dangerous environments for bikers, pedestrians and more.

How much sound is created from these vehicles? How much pollution?

We can not pretend that the MTA is ready to take on all of our transportation. Safety, timeliness, cost and more are all valid critiques many have.

The ticket fines with parking have become too extreme, many working families can't afford to pay the fines. Once they stack up your car can be taken and that is many folks' livelihood. All to be considered.

Disabled New Yorkers complain of long wait times for public transportation. If you live in Brooklyn it can be very difficult to get north or south, often you need to take the train into Manhattan.

Ticket fines

Having residents circle the block for 15 to 30 minutes to find parking doesn't seem good for the environment and needs some fine tuning. Rich residents can easily pay parking tickets but poorer folks end up bearing the biggest burden of this tax.

There is also considerable road rage in the city with motorists for many reasons, we need to find a way to make the roads more loving, safe and positive as cars are very powerful and should be used for good.

Roundabouts may be a better alternative for safer and smoother traffic patterns.

PROTECTING MINORITIES AND DISENFRANCHISED

One of the major problems is that managers and administrators become removed from work "on the ground." But the truth in service doesn't happen in the "ivory tower" nor is it trapped in the numbers collected by biased data collectors (we all have bias but the multiple layers that data must pass through leads to greater amounts of distortion of the truth.)

The managers that "control" the flow of resources become surrounded by others that for understandable reasons want to control the resources and they engage in behaviors that are not balanced in trying to "win access" to those resources.

The horrifying effect of this is that often the people that are supposed to be served and even worse the actual victims of institutional errors and corruption are disregarded to protect the egos or priorities of management.

Often the population will be disregarding of the suffering of these people for where there is no pain there is no urgency.

We must make sure in all systems that the people BEING SERVED MUST HAVE INPUT with regards to review of the program being run. The program MUST BE TRANSPARENT in order to prevent corruption. And management must be ACCOUNTABLE for their actions. The health of the organization is not equivalent to the whims of management, but rather a holistic approach that cares for all portions of the community, including it's most vulnerable.

There is a danger in democracy. It does not necessarily protect the needs of minority groups. It is up to us to make sure that the needs of minorities of all kinds including dissenters is protected.

CANDIDATE THAT MADE ON THE BALLOT FOR ANY PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION AND NON-PARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION IS AUTOMATICALLY NOMINATED TO HIS COMMUNITY BOARD.

Many citizen that wants to be involved in their community do not get nominated to the community board because they bring a different message than the elected official that represent them.

The proposal is to change the charter to automatically include any candidate that petitioned and made the ballot but lost the election to be a voting member of his local community board.

This will prevent the current system of patronage where the community board is completely appointed by the Borough President on the basis of patronage.

Having loosing candidates as voting member encourage their civic duty and bring a different voice to the community board. This diversity will bring new idea to the community. Their voice would serve as a check and balance to the board.

SDA Proposal to Vacant Rent-Regulated Apartment Units Warehoused by Landlords — Radical Times Call for Radical Change

[The Ugly First Draft (THUFD) by Susi Schropp]

DRAFT HISTORY:

TUFD: 2022-10-22

A proposal approved by Social Democrats of America (SDA)

THE ISSUES:

The formula for disaster:

Decades of poor housing policy and pushing the cans down the road by politicians

+

A landlord lobby that wants to do away with affordable housing

+

COVID

+

War-induced economic energy crisis

=

A housing crisis so massive, that law-makers are forced to find ways to deal with the problem in new and innovative ways.

RESPECTIVE PROBLEMS:

Landlords: Expensive renovations, coupled with increased operating costs. Detraction from overall income, attracts crime and unsafe conditions (Daniel Ohebshalom buildings), and contributes to the demise of other units.

Tenants: Incomes are far below the cost of living, and market-rate housing is unaffordable. Overburdened shelter system

Government: a housing crisis becoming unmanageable to the State and exasperated by the refugee crisis. Exorbitant costs to house homeless families and individuals.

THE SOLUTION:

Developing a temporary emergency provision utilizing a Vienna Housing Model approach.

Law-makers implement a temporary eminent domain provision and take possession of vacant units, renovate them at state costs and rent them to tenants in shelter systems.

Landlords receive a monthly operating stipend calculated based on a percentage of affordable units in the building, overall income, and reasonable operating costs.

Landlords can repossess units via payment plans to a housing fund that, over time, offsets the renovation costs or pay off all renovation costs in a lump sum.

Landlords must submit proposals for renovating such units, and the State vets them as follows:

1) Landlord submits an unreasonable, inflated, or out-of-scale renovation estimate. The agency will accept the proposal and the determined pay-back amount for the landlord to take back possession of the unit(s). The agency will renovate at reasonable costs (average under \$40K) and use the additional income from the inflated proposal to build the affordable housing fund.

2) Landlords submit low-ball proposals, and the agency will apply a minimum required to renovate the units properly.

3) Landlord accepts the agency proposal.

WIN WIN WIN

Government:

- Immediate infusion of affordable housing units without a costly investment into real estate.
- Drastic expense cuts to house homeless families and individuals.
- Immediate relief to a growing housing crisis.
- Maintaining tax income from landlords who would use such programs fraudulently.
- Community building.
- Boost to the economy.

Tenants:

- Higher quality housing from current cheap motel shelter arrangements at up to \$7K+ per month (no kitchen for cooking).
- Secure permanent affordable housing.
- Newly renovated units.
- Dignity
- A thriving family environment, especially for children.
- Ability to save for emergencies.
- Community building.

- Healthier living.

Landlords:

- Interest-free renovation of their real estate.
- Increase in property value (the renovation loan could be included in the asking price during a sale or transfer)
- Lowering operating costs (operating stipend).
- Preventing break-ins, vandalism, and demise.
- Contribution to rebuilding the economy and the City, State, and Country.

ARTICLES:

<https://www.thecity.nyc/housing/2022/10/19/23411956/60000-rent-stabilized-apartments-vacant-warehousing-nyc-landlords-housing>

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-edit-housing-affordability-rents-stabilization-hstpa-nyc-landlords-tenants-20221021-xhshiyijsrh77bmkkdk74zjonci-story.html>

<https://nypost.com/2022/10/20/nyc-landlords-holding-60k-rent-stabilized-units-for-ransom/>

<https://therealdeal.com/2022/10/19/20000-vacant-units-try-triple-that-number/>

<https://localtoday.news/ny/nyc-landlords-hold-60000-rent-stabilized-units-for-ransom-52740.html>

<https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-releases-agency-watch-list-report-on-citywide-homelessness-spending/>

Proposed hashtags for distribution:

#socialhousing #housingcrisis #viennalessons #affordablehousing #wheninwien

Resolution on Privacy

The right to privacy is a fundamental human right. It is necessary for organizing as socialists in a capitalist world. It is key to human personality formation, and to any prospect of human thriving.

Privacy is important with respect to other people, corporations and the government:

- Our world is one where social media mobs can doxx people and get them fired for their politics or their medical choices. We stand for strong encryption, privacy in our homes, privacy in our movements in public, and privacy in our transactions.
- Our world of surveillance capitalism commodifies bodies and lives into data segments that can be endlessly exploited, shared, repackaged and sold. We stand against the capitalist cacophony of targeted advertising, data brokers, “smart” devices and cities, and the stinking snake oil of Big Data.
- Our world is one where the surveillance states of the US, China, Russia and other powers, power themselves by data, by maintaining a panoptic view of the communications, movements and activities of their people. We stand for the withering away of the NSA and the FBI, and the destruction of their tools of mass surveillance.

Resolution on Reforming the US and NY Tax Systems

WHEREAS the tax codes of both the United States and New York are exceedingly complicated, difficult to understand, and subject to significant avoidance by the wealthy and well-connected;

WHEREAS the current tax system contributes to the growing disparity of both wealth and income due to tax preferences and rates that disproportionately benefit the wealthy;

WHEREAS taxes should be simple, fair, progressive, and broad-based*;

THEREFORE be it resolved by the Four Freedoms Democratic Club that:

- New York State commission an independent study to evaluate the incidence of New York's tax system on different income groups and racial/ethnic groups. The legislature should act to reduce disparities in the State tax system and increase progressiveness.
- New York State and the Federal government should allow taxpayers to opt-in to a government-run automated tax filing system, as has been done successfully in several other countries. Such system would benefit millions of low-income families who find it difficult to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and other tax credits while sparing many taxpayers the long, costly, and tedious task of preparing annual tax returns.
- Congress should expand the budget and authority of the IRS with a mandate and improved capability to examine complicated tax returns and tax schemes under which the wealthy often minimize or eliminate taxation.
- The US Congress enact and implement a 15% minimum global income corporate tax, in alignment with the 2021 OECD agreement already adopted by most countries in the world.
- Begin a process to minimize, eliminate, or sunset unjustified tax preferences in the tax code. These would include:
 - The elimination of the lower capital gains tax rate for the so-called "carried interest" in which the taxpayer has no actual investment at risk.
 - The phasing out and elimination of tax deductions for second homes, including deductions for state and local taxes and mortgage interest.
 - The elimination of the exemptions from taxation of the value of employer-provided housing (including the New York "parsonage exemption" and the Federal exemption for "expat" overseas employees) and the "foreign housing exclusion" (which largely benefits wealthy expats).
 - A cap of \$5,000 on tax deductible charitable contributions, an item often abused by the overvaluation of in-kind deductions by the wealthy.
 - Limit the reduced rate of taxation on qualified dividends to the first \$100,000 of such dividends (inflation adjusted), recognizing that this tax preference largely favors the wealthy.
 - Create a tax on stock buybacks by corporations, a strategy that eliminates taxation on the equivalent of otherwise taxable dividends.
 - Eliminate the "step-up" tax basis of inherited assets including stocks, a tax preference that results in a huge reduction in the taxation of the estates of the wealthy.

* By "broad based," we mean: that everyone pays taxes; that special preference is rarely given to certain types of income; and that all income should be taxed equivalently. Some of the actions that will lead to this goal are included in this resolution. We also note that, by moving towards a more broadly based tax system, it is possible to reduce the tax rate, minimizing the financial reward for tax avoidance.



DESDE LAS ENTRAÑAS DEL MONSTRUO

Official Publication of the New York Committee of the PIP
pipnewyork1@cs.com * Facebook Twitter Instagram: Nueva York PIP * 917.200.2637

THE GRITO DE LARES IS PRESENT

Year 1-Num 5—Sept. 2022
Jaime Medina & Eric Ramos
worked on this issue.

On September 23rd, 2022, we commemorated the 154th anniversary of the Grito de Lares, the first armed insurrection against Spanish colonial rule that crystalized before the world the nascent Puerto Rican nationality and its yearning for prosperity. This year the traditional celebrations were adversely impacted by the passage of hurricane Fiona. In a nation under foreign intervention, in the throes of a 16-year long economic depression, and one that has never fully recovered from the devastations



wrought by hurricanes Irma and María, or the earthquakes that hit shortly thereafter, the new atmospheric calamity has hit us especially hard.

The effects of the hurricane are made all the more difficult given Luma Energy's pusillanimous attitude, the private energy company that more than one week into the natural disaster has not been able to restore electrical services to vast sectors of the population. Add to the lack of light and electricity the absence of running water in many regions of Puerto Rico, and you can begin to appreciate the extent of the present administrative incompetence. In the meantime, the pro-statehood Governor and colonial lackey, Pedro Pierluisi, continues to behave as Luma's legal counsel, instead of as the people's advocate and representative, which is what he should be doing.



Today, Puerto Rico faces an institutional breakdown, which makes it all the more difficult to climb out of adverse situations like the aftermath of Fiona. Our colonial status is nothing short of the dead weight of a bygone era that continues to limit our developmental possibilities. When we add to this already depressing picture the ongoing governmental corruption and the handing over to foreign economic interests the local resources, one can safely say that this is just the straw that broke the camel's back. In fact, a ship loaded with diesel fuel, which is scarce in the island, was unable to unload its cargo because it is forbidden from doing so given the requirements of U.S. Maritime laws. A petition to waive these requirements was awaiting consideration by the President of the United States. It was granted days later; however, we are at the mercy of what the colonial masters decide.

¡AYUDEMOS A NUESTRA PATRIA!

DONACIONES SUMINISTROS HURACAN FIONA

Recaudación de fondos para comprar artículos de primera necesidad para comunidades afectadas en Puerto Rico.

PARA DONAR DESDE EL EXTERIOR:

ATH Móvil (negocio): /myzPIP
 Paypal (Mayagüez): jpipmayaguezegmail.com
 Paypal (San Juan): partidoindependentistapaypal@gmail.com
 Mensaje: Donativo Fiona

CONVOCATORIA DE LA DIÁSPORA PIP



*The attached graph indicates some places to which aid can be sent in PR.

Presently, diverse efforts are being made to collect non-perishable food items and money throughout the entire archipelago. The material loss has been enormous and the PIP and its youth brigades have been very active in that mission. Our brothers and sister from the chapter of the PIP in Rochester, NY, have been on the vanguard as well in this effort to collect foodstuff and donations to aid those affected by Fiona. From our New York committee we strongly encourage all Puerto Ricans and our brothers and sisters from other nationalities to cooperate with these ongoing efforts. **Our people are still fighting!**

Comrade Frank Velgara: Present!

On the afternoon of September 3rd, 2022, in upper Manhattan, hundreds of people congregated at the funeral home to pay tribute and their last respects to the unmatched comrade in struggle, Frank Velgara Valentin. In keeping with Frank's life-long example, it was a humble act, full of dignity and revolutionary fervor. The New York Committee of the PIP joins hands with the patriotic movement in the Island and in the diaspora in recognition to this great soul, a tireless fighter who just ascended to the spiritual realm. Frank was one of those indispensable comrades that for decades maintained high the flag of the Puerto Rican nation and the fight for social justice.



Approval of the Institutional Policy of the PIP for the Evaluation and Solution of Conflicts Based on Gender Discrimination among its Militants

On September 7th, 2022, the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) announced the approval of its "Protocols and Institutional Policy for the Evaluation and Solution of Conflicts Based on Gender Discrimination" in order to address situations that arise among the militants of the party within the context of voluntary work, which will make the PIP the first party in Puerto Rico to adopt such a protocol and policy.

The implementation of the new protocol will include, and be followed by, educational workshops, orientations and the diffusion of the new document to all its militants.



The New York Committee of the PIP congratulates the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party in its Centennial Celebrations. #



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Resolution to calling for greater transparency in PLP Contracts.

A Resolution to Amend Local Law No. 76, (Council Int. No. 1324-A of 2016), of the City of New York, passed by the Council on April 25, 2017, approved by the Mayor on May 10, 2017, effective January 1, 2019.

Whereas the City of New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Participation Loan Program (PLP) is not sufficiently transparent and cannot be effectively held accountable for its fulfillment of its fiduciary duties as "supervisory agency" for Housing Development Fund Corporations (HDFCs) as mandated by Article 11, § 572 (14) of the New York State Private Housing Finance Law.

Whereas many of HPD's public/private partnerships, intended for providing affordable housing programs for low and moderate income residents, are in poor condition and financial distressing, causing suffering for residents.

Whereas efficient affordable housing programs for low and moderate income residents of the City of New York cannot succeed without transparency.

Whereas all HPD affordable housing Participation Loan Program (PLP) contracts with nonprofits, sponsors and developers should be listed and be easily retrieved in the Passport Contracts Database.

Whereas under Local Law 76, the publication of PLP contracts is only required "where feasible" and such contracts are rarely reported.

Whereas HPD's public/private partnerships must promote transparency and accountability.

Be it resolved that the Social Democrats of America hereby joins the [Four Freedoms Democratic Club](#) calls to amend Local Law 76 to require:

All contractors participating in any public/private affordable housing Participation Loan Programs (PLP) with the City of New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), must disclose all such contracts in the [Passport Contracts Database](#) pursuant to Local Law No. 76, effective January 1, 2019, requiring information about city contracts to be available online for public access **to include agency name, program, contractor name, contract category, contract number, contract scope and contract amount.**

SDA Upper Manhattan Branch

DRAFT



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SDA Statement Regarding 2022 Rent Guidelines Board Rent Increases

On June 21, 2022, the New York Rent Guidelines Board approved the highest increase in rents of the city's rent-stabilized apartments since 2008. The increases, effective from Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023, are: 3.25% on 1-year leases, and 5% on 2-year leases.

But Why?

One of the major arguments by Rent Stabilization Organization, the landlord lobbying group, is that small building owners are facing financial hardships. But so are tenants. And landlords already have in place solutions, if they can prove the financial hardships their lobbying organization claims.

The New York City Lease Rider for Rent Stabilized Tenants (Section 3, paragraph 4C), issued by the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal's Rent Administration Office, says a building owner may apply to increase the rents of all rent-stabilized apartments if:

- The landlord can prove that the current rent income isn't enough to generate at least a five percent profit (operating expenses minus rent revenue).
- Or the landlord can prove that rents aren't sufficient to enable him to generate the same average annual net income over a three-year period as he earned during the three years from 1968 through 1970. If the building was completed after 1968, the average annual net income would be based on the first three years of operation or the first three years the owner owned the building if that data isn't available.

If an application for a rent increase based on a major capital improvement or hardship is granted, the owner may charge the increase during the term of an existing lease only if the lease contains a clause specifically authorizing the owner to do so.

So What's the Real Problem?

So if there's already a solution, what is the real problem? The problem is that the median rent in New York City already is up 24% from a year ago. And the problem is that Mayor Eric Adams, who appoints the members of the Rent Guidelines Board, has received substantial donations from New York real estate interests. He is beholden to a strong lobby that controls most of the city's planning and development, always in the name of maximizing profit and rarely for sensible city planning that would accommodate New Yorkers and visitors.

Almost all development completely disregards the affordable housing shortage, especially in New York City, and any environmental vision and action (East River Park destruction, Governor's Island, etc.)

So, who does Mayor Adam represent? Those two-thirds of New Yorkers who rent rather than own their homes (a third of whom spend more than half their income on rent). Or those major real estate investors who, studies show, are more often the owners of rent-regulated buildings and are more often responsible for evictions than the "mom and pop" landlords the lobbyists claim to represent.

SDA NYC Downtown Branch



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NFTA METRO RAIL LINE EXTENSION

Contrary to popular belief, extending the NFTA (Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority) metro rail out into the suburbs is **not** a losing proposition. The NFTA would go from canalside in downtown Buffalo to Niagara Falls State Park, Gateway Park in the City of Tonawanda, University of Buffalo North, and eventually to Delaware Avenue and the airport...

If the state and federal government would fund such public transportation, they will electrify certain thoroughfares and create jobs for middle-class workers. One of the reasons why Boston Massachusetts and New York City have such high ridership is because the transportation network obviates the need for cars. Tokyo and Berlin do the same thing and people are proud to ride it. In the new economy, it saves money on gas and car payments, and overall maintenance.

I am proposing that the Tonawanda town board become a lobbyist for justice and truly support rail line extension in Western New York for passenger rail on city streets. The board should pass a resolution demanding that the state government go after the alcoholic beverage industry for an extra sales tax on alcohol, \$0.03 to \$0.06 depending on the purchase. This will go a long way to help subsidize the rail line extension.

The bars and restaurants would be exempt from paying any taxes until purchase of an alcoholic beverage in one of the establishments is made, then the cost is passed on to the public in the form of a sales tax, and the sin tax gets even larger, sparing the bars and restaurants who have to purchase the alcohol and would not be subject to any extra taxes. The cost is passed on to the consumers at bars, restaurants, and at convenience stores.

Light Rail tax on alcoholic beverages should be set as follows:

- \$0.03 tax on all bar drinks and at restaurants, bars and restaurant owners exempt because they buy in bulk.
- \$0.03 sales tax on all bottles of craft beer sold at convenience stores or supermarkets
- \$0.03 sales tax and all six packs sold at convenience stores or supermarkets
- \$0.06 sales tax and all 12 packs sold at convenience stores are supermarkets.
- \$0.06 sales tax and on all cases of beer sold in New York state.
- \$0.03 sales tax on all restaurant drinks purchase with alcohol.
- Corporate establishments are except after the first 6 cases of alcohol. Non for profits and corner dives are exempt altogether.

This sales tax should be passed directly to the consumer. The majority of people that cause fatalities on the road, statistically speaking, come from bars and restaurants. This will encourage people to take public transportation when drinking.

We cannot rely on public transportation being barely-regulated taxi cabs or cars. Let's make the consumer who caused the fatalities as well as the alcoholic beverage industry pay up with a state sales tax.

SDA Western New York Chapter



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Hunters for Regulation & Environmental Protection's plan to deepen our outlook

Hunters for Regulation & Environmental Protection is a group dedicated to conservation and protecting the Earth from climate change. Its Facebook page spotlights progressive hunters and concerned citizens.

Just as the Red Falcons of America were created by the Young People's Socialist League as the left alternative to the Boy Scouts during the 20th century, **Hunters for Regulation & Environmental Protection** is the 21st century left alternative to the National Rifle Association.

We adopt and respect gun safety measures to ensure public health, including bans on military grade firearms and assault weapons put forth by Congress and enacted by state legislatures. Traditional firearms such as shotguns and non-military grade rifles are to be reserved for hunting and target shooting only, where local hunting is to be geared for the cultivation of food.

We adopt and respect conservation efforts. **The Endangered Species Act is to be strictly enforced.** Globally, comparable acts should be enacted and enforced to preserve dying species such as the African elephants, lions, bonobos and gorillas. Moratoria on whale hunting must be supported. We defend and encourage the anti-poaching efforts undertaken by women warrior units in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Global warming is to be curbed by not investing in factory farming and big agriculture. Nearby rail traffic must be ecologically sound. Ethical farming practices must be encouraged. Small farmers are to be rewarded for helping the environment.

We support the formation of a green hunters coalition ranging from conservationists and environmentalists to followers of entertainer and climate activist Willie Nelson and progressive hunters like ex-astronaut Mark Kelly (*husband of shooting victim, former Rep. Gabby Giffords*), currently a Democratic candidate for the US Senate.

We must respect the rights of indigenous peoples at all times, recalling that land that is being borrowed for the purposes of hunting was once theirs. The National Park Service's bison hunting program, where penned-in bison are shot without mercy, should be cancelled. In its place, the distribution of extra herds of bison, elk and buffalo to native tribes is to be promoted. Such distribution would accommodate the tribes' work in prairie restoration, reviving bison ranching as a major factor in food cultivation and generating sorely-needed revenue for all native American reservations.

We must counter climate change denialism, originating primarily from the Republican Party, that serves to accelerate climate change and its immediate danger to our agriculture, especially in its promotion of factory farms.

Few encounter climate change more directly than hunters and fishermen, and their insights must be sought after in this struggle to preserve our environment.

We respect and work to preserve the fragile ecology of Earth – the nature, environment and climate in which we live. We are forever obligated to protect it.

We work to create a better tomorrow so that the youth can inherit a world worth living in. We support the kids at March For Our Lives, who are to be saluted as the youth of tomorrow.

SDA Western New York Chapter