

# NJFAC : National Jobs For All Coalition

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Dear DSA Friends,

Congratulations on what promises to be the largest DSA Convention ever and kudos for the tremendous growth of DSA membership in the last year! That is great news for all who engage in the struggle to achieve social and economic justice in our country. The National Jobs for All Coalition writes not only to congratulate you as leaders in DSA but to invite you to join us in our pursuit of what Franklin Roosevelt considered the “fundamental” economic right: to living-wage work. What follows is our *Green Jobs for All Proposal: One Solution to Two Crises*. The Solution builds on the dual legacy of the New Deal job creation programs that not only rescued millions of unemployed workers but also added immeasurably to the physical, cultural and environmental resources of the nation – offering a Job Guarantee inclusive of race, gender and sexual orientation.

## GREEN JOBS FOR ALL • TWO CRISES: ONE SOLUTION

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### THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Devastating environmental changes – largely resulting from the burning of fossil fuels – occur everywhere on earth.

Water grows scarcer in dry regions, torrential rains increase in wet regions, heat waves are more common & more severe, hurricanes are more frequent & more deadly, wildfires worsen, forests are dying, & melting ice caps portend coastal flooding threatening human habitation. Hotter climates mean diminishing food supplies that result in starvation & consequent conflict, particularly in the poorer countries of the world. *Scientists warn that without significant fossil fuel reduction, the earth will become less livable.*

### THE JOBS CRISIS

High unemployment is a chronic problem, higher during economic downturns, but is always present. The fear of more unemployment hinders efforts to solve the environmental crisis.

- 17.7 million people are officially unemployed, jobless but not looking for work (discouraged, unable to obtain child care or transportation, etc.), or forced to work part-time.
- 19.3 million more work year-round, full-time for less than the 4-person poverty line.
- 37.0 million unemployed, underemployed, or working poor.
- The real unemployment rate is 10.7%, more than double the official unemployment rate of 4.4%.
- Black workers typically have twice the unemployment rate of white workers.
- Unemployment, however, is not only a minority problem: the number of unemployed whites is nearly 5 times the number of unemployed blacks.
- Too many young Americans – of all races & ethnicities – foresee a future without good jobs.

### THE SOLUTION – CREATION OF GREEN JOBS

In the 1930s, the Roosevelt Administration showed we could put millions to work doing useful jobs that made a lasting contribution to our country – roads, bridges, schools, libraries, housing, parks & environmental conservation, arts, culture – & much more.

*Creating green jobs would solve both environmental and unemployment crises – as well as decrease our growing economic inequality.* (continued on following page) 

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Contribute online at [www.njfac.org](http://www.njfac.org)

## WHAT ARE GREEN JOBS?

- Retrofitting or making houses, office buildings, schools, & factories more energy efficient.
- Manufacturing & installing solar panels, wind turbines, geothermal & other forms of renewable energy, along with employing researchers to develop more efficient alternatives to fossil fuels.
- Redirecting agribusiness subsidies to local, environmentally sustainable farming.
- Building a railroad system that provides affordable, fuel-efficient public transportation.
- Making our infrastructure more efficient by repairing roads, bridges, & water systems.
- Adding millions of needed teachers, child care & health care workers to our work force.
- Producing easily recyclable & repairable goods & reducing planned obsolescence.
- Providing education about green technologies & increasing awareness of climate change.

*More leisure like paid vacations for all workers and a shorter work week would reduce environmental & unemployment crises & economic inequality.*

## JOBS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE MILLIONS OF GOOD GREEN JOBS

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### HR 1000 – THE HUMPHREY-HAWKINS 21ST CENTURY FULL EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ACT

Introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), HR 1000 commits the U.S. to full employment – the right to useful work at living wages for all. This government job guarantee would remove a major barrier to dealing with the environmental crisis: fear of job loss. Through partnerships between the Department of Labor and state and local governments, non-profit community organizations, and small businesses, HR 1000 would create millions of new jobs in construction, infrastructure repair, energy and conservation, education, health care, human services, and neighborhood renovation. HR 1000 respects existing collective bargaining agreements and protects workers' rights to join labor unions.

HR 1000 would be funded by a Financial Transactions Tax of 1/4 of 1 percent (0.25%) on stock transactions and similar small taxes on futures, options, and swaps transactions. These modest assessments would generate enough money to create 2.5 to 3.9 million jobs during the first two years of the program. The bill would also help bring down the federal deficit. For every 1 million unemployed people who go back to work, the federal deficit decreases by \$54 billion.

Economist Philip Harvey of the NJFAC Board served as the major consultant in the design of H.R. 1000.

### HR 2206 – THE 21ST CENTURY CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS ACT

Introduced by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), HR 2206 would establish a Civilian Conservation Corps similar to the one established in the 1930s. The new CCC would provide jobs to unemployed or underemployed U.S. citizens in constructing, maintaining, and carrying through works of a public nature, such as forestation of U.S. and state lands, prevention of forest fires, floods, and soil erosion, and construction and repair of National Park System paths and trails. HR 1966 would be funded at a level of \$16 billion a year from fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021.

### S. 111 – THE EMPLOY YOUNG AMERICANS NOW ACT

Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), S. 111 would provide \$4 billion in Fiscal 2018 in grants to states and local governments to: provide summer and year round employment opportunities for low-income youth, with direct links to academic and occupational learning; and provide important services such as transportation or child care, necessary to enable young Americans to participate in job opportunities.

### DSA MEMBERS CAN HELP TO ACHIEVE WHAT F.D.R. CONSIDERED THE “FUNDAMENTAL” ECONOMIC RIGHT: LIVING-WAGE WORK!!

Pass a resolution supporting these bills in your union, labor council, community organization, or city council and discuss these bills with your Congresspersons and Senators.

👉 For help in building support for job creation legislation, contact NJFAC Coordinator Logan Martinez at **937-260-2591** or **LOGANMARTINEZ2U@YAHOO.COM**. Visit [njfac.org](http://njfac.org) for the “real” unemployment count and vital information about unemployment, job creation and other issues.