

1 [Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Works Progress Administration]

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3 **Resolution commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Works Progress Administration**
4 **on April 10, 2010.**
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6 WHEREAS, 75 years ago, on April 8, 1935, Congress passed legislation creating the
7 largest public works program in U.S. history. The Works Progress Administration (WPA)
8 created 8.5 million jobs during the Depression of the 1930s; and

9 WHEREAS, Organized labor and all working people and communities need to mark
10 the 75th anniversary of the creation of the WPA by telling the government that today's jobless
11 crisis is as bad as today as it was back then. We need the same kind of bold, sweeping jobs
12 program that the people demanded in the 1930s; and

13 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated the final months of his life to starting a
14 movement for the right of all to a job or guaranteed income – and we need that movement
15 now more than ever; and

16 WHEREAS, What we have now is at best a jobless recovery ... an economy based on
17 permanent high unemployment and low wages ... a political and economic system that
18 provides trillions of dollars for Wall Street, and trillions of dollars for war but nothing for large
19 numbers of workers and the poor, who are facing joblessness, foreclosures, evictions, layoffs,
20 low wages, hunger and homelessness; and

21 WHEREAS, There are more than 20 million unemployed and underemployed people in
22 the country today. We need a real WPA-type program that is big enough to ensure that those
23 who need work get work – work that is socially useful and which pays union wages and
24 benefits – a real jobs program fully funded by the government; and
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1 WHEREAS, A national labor/community protest will take place on Saturday, April 10,
2 2010 in Washington, D.C., commemorating the 75th anniversary of the WPA and demanding
3 enactment of a similar bold, sweeping public jobs program today; and

4 WHEREAS, The issue of jobs is on the front burner: all it needs is a flame. The April
5 10th commemoration of the WPA's 75th anniversary is consistent with the AFL-CIO's 5-point
6 JOBS Plan. April 10th would be a great stepping stone for a possible labor-led Solidarity Day
7 III march on Washington in the fall of 2010, demanding that a real jobs program like the WPA
8 be enacted today; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors endorses the April 10, 2010
10 national demonstration in Washington DC, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the WPA,
11 a part of the largest public works program in history, which created 8.5 million jobs during the
12 Depression of the 1930s, and demands enactment of a similar bold sweeping jobs program
13 today.