



May 31, 2025

Target boycott targets racism: Black clergy and community members picket D.C. store

By Jamal Rich

WASHINGTON—On Sunday, May 25, the fifth anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, a group of Black pastors, rabbis, and community members gathered in front of the Target in D.C.'s Columbia Heights neighborhood for a powerful prayer vigil.

The Black clergy responded to the call by Pastor Jamal Bryant, one of the leaders of the nationwide boycott campaign against Target, to pray in front of a local store for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, the time that killer cop Derek Chauvin held his knee on Floyd's neck as the life went out of his body. According to Bryant, over 50 churches around the country have responded to the call.

The vigil included Rev. Christopher Zacharias of John Wesley AME Zion Church and the D.C. Poor People's Campaign; Rev. Patricia Fears of Fellowship Baptist Church; Emeritus Rev. Graylan S. Hagler of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. Lewis Tait, Jr., of The Village; Rev. Edward Hailes, Jr.; Rabbi Koach Baruch Frazier of New Synagogue Project; Rev. Dr. Keith Byrd, Sr., of Zion Baptist Church; and Rev. Dr. Clarence Cross.

The pastors and rabbis joined the freedom chorus denouncing racism and lifting up the fight for equal rights for African Americans. The symbolism of the vigil in front of the Target, which is headquartered in Minneapolis, shows that the Black church and community is taking the fight for democracy directly to those who are enabling its rollback.

"So, we will march around the halls of Target and the halls of any corporation that refuses to give proper treatment and sensitivity to all of its customers—Black, brown, gay, straight, whatever it is—their money is still green, and they expect to be treated like human beings," Rev. Byrd during his sermon.

Pastor Hagler added: "Elon Musk went running back to Tesla because he saw 71% of his revenue drop in the first quarter. One-by-one, we've got to hit these corporations. And if it means sending the country into a depression, that's what we need to do because I am depressed already—maybe not economically, but psychologically—I am attacked and targeted already by the policies of this administration."

The coalition of pastors continued to call on the D.C. community to participate in the indefinite weekly picket in front of the Columbia Heights Target, which takes place every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon.



It aims to cut all foot traffic into the store and build an ecosystem of consciousness and divestment.

Participants from the #TeslaTakedown actions also attended the vigil and vowed to collaborate and lead actions around Target, recognizing the importance of this struggle in addition to their concentrated efforts around Tesla.

Target's sales have plummeted, and its share prices have taken a major hit since the boycott began during Black History Month earlier this year. Net sales declined by 2.8% (while Costco's and similar stores have increased), and foot traffic is down by 4.8% in the first quarter of 2025.

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CONTINUING THE DAILY WORKER



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Leaders of the nationwide boycott movement, including Pastor Jamal Bryant, Nina Turner, and Tamika Mallory, consider the effort to be part of the “New Civil Rights Movement” and expect the boycott could last as long as the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott, which stretched nearly a year.

Organizers say the action will continue until all of their demands are met, including Target meeting its \$2 billion commitment to Black business, depositing \$250 million to Black-owned banks, establishing community retail centers at HBCUs, and fully restoring its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.

Burkina Faso’s government of change confronts imperialism

By W. T. Whitney Jr.

Captain Ibrahim Traoré, 34 years old, became the provisional head of Burkina Faso’s government after a military coup in September 2022. The state he now leads is seeking to finish off the remnants of French colonial power, build economic independence, develop infrastructure, satisfy some of the population’s basic needs, and ward off U.S. intervention.

The lesson to be taken from happenings there is that in the Global South, national independence must be achieved before meaningful social change of a progressive nature can take place.

There were foreboding mentions of Traoré at an April 3 hearing in Washington held by the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Sen. Roger Wicker commented on “the ruling elite of a country [in Africa] receiving gratuities on the side.” Responding, Gen. Michael Langley, head of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), stated that, for “Captain Traore in Burkina Faso...gold reserves...are just in exchange to protect the Junta [sic] regime.”

Burkina Faso does envision other purposes for its gold—purposes which might not sit well with U.S. imperialism. Langley’s remark provoked a wave of criticism in [Africa](#) and the [United States](#).

A couple of weeks later, AFRICOM’s [Operation Flintlock](#), involving [500](#) troops from 30 African nations, took place in Ivory Coast from April 24, when Gen. Langley was on hand, to May 14. On April 22, authorities there foiled what was called a “major [plot](#)” to assassinate Traoré—one of [many](#) such attempts. Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso are not on friendly terms.

Traoré was in Moscow on May 10 for the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany, arriving on a Russian plane sent to Burkina Faso to bring him. At a meeting attended by high Russian officials, President Vladimir Putin [assured](#) Traoré of Russia’s cooperation in fighting terrorism, “restoring the rule of law,” strengthening trade, and educating Burkina Faso youth.

Traoré spoke of defending against imperialism, providing science education, and developing “our own production, industry, and engineering.”

Traoré studied geology at Burkina Faso’s University of Ouagadougou, where he joined a Marxist student association. As a military officer, he joined a United Nations peacekeeping force intervening in a civil war in Mali and later led troops fighting Jihadist insurgents in Burkina Faso.

Traoré says he takes inspiration from Thomas Sankara, Burkina Faso’s coup-installed president from 1983 until his assassination in 1987.



Marxist-oriented Sankara aligned with revolutionary Cuba and Nicaragua, and his government advanced healthcare, education, literacy, agrarian reform, women’s equality, and more.

Apollinaire Kyélem de Tambèla, a pan-Africanist [with ties](#) to communist and left-wing organizations, served as Traoré’s prime minister until his dismissal in December 2024. He had collaborated with Sankara in pursuing international solidarity.

Burkina Faso is located in Africa’s Sahel region, a band of semi-arid land south of the Sahara extending from the Atlantic to Eritrea on the Red Sea. France colonized all states in the region, except for Sudan and Eritrea. Their independence, granted in 1960, was flawed.

France maintained military bases in the Sahel and the [CFA franc](#) (franc of the French colonies in Africa) remains as the region’s currency.

France requires the various countries to [deposit](#) 50% of their currency reserves in the French treasury. Because the currency’s value is pegged to the Euro, individual countries cannot adjust exchange rates to stimulate industrial development. French overvaluation of the CFA franc makes for low purchase prices for exported goods and higher prices for whatever is imported. As a result, Burkina Faso supports its economy by exporting commodities derived from natural resources rather than by selling manufactured products or providing services.

Burkina Faso’s [most bountiful exports](#) are gold and raw cotton. The world’s [13th](#) largest producer of gold, and the [fourth](#) largest in Africa, the country also exports copper, manganese, and zinc.

Beginning in 2013, The French military joined regional forces in fighting Jihadist insurgents. But, says one observer, “[military assistance](#) [to the French] discouraged African elites from pursuing reform or sharing power, while failing to halt rebel attacks.” U.S. military forces participate as “advisors.”

Meanwhile, military coups in Chad, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso hastened the departure of the French military. French troops will leave Senegal by the end of 2025. To strengthen mutual defense, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger formed the Alliance of Sahel States in September 2023. Four months later, the three nations broke away from the U.S.-inspired Economic Community of West African States. Traoré took a lead role in these transitions.

French oppression is one burden for Burkina Faso; stunted development of human potential is another. Life expectancy at birth is [61 years](#); expected schooling is [2.3 years](#). In most of Burkina Faso, [10%](#) of children suffer from acute malnutrition. Infant mortality in 2022 was [50.1](#) deaths per 1,000 live births; the world average that year was [28](#) deaths. The Human Development Index of the United Nations puts Burkina Faso at [number 186](#) on its list of 193 countries.

The government has accomplished much since Traoré came into power, though. Observer Nicolas Jones, writing under the heading of “Nkrumah’s Africa,” [summarizes](#):

- Traoré continued with his army salary and arranged for a 30% pay cut for government ministers and a 50% increase for civil servants.
- Having expelled French troops fighting the Jihadists, Traoré mobilized the already-established Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland, an auxiliary military force. Recruitment far exceeded expectations.
- Burkina Faso has built a plant for producing generic drugs, a new cement plant, a new flour mill, and two tomato and two cotton processing plants. An “iconic” and inactive textile factory has been revived.
- The government has distributed seeds, fertilizer, and equipment to farmers; wheat production is expanding. Another report says mobile [clinics](#) are appearing throughout the country.
- The government is building and repairing highways and is constructing the new “Thomas Sankara” airport near the capital city,
- The government no longer takes loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

According to [intellinews.com](#), gold has been Burkina Faso’s [top export](#) since 2009, accounting in 2023 for 80% of the country’s export income and 22% of government revenues. Foreign companies formally owned and operated all of the country’s gold mines, allowing Burkina Faso a 10% equity share in each one.

But Traoré’s government nationalized three of them and, collaborating with an outside mining company, began construction in 2023 of a gold refinery to capture additional income from gold.

A report [states that](#) the government, “clearly distancing itself from the West, has strengthened economic and security ties with Russia...and with China, a country that has made many investments in Burkina Faso.” According to Jones, Traoré attended a Russia-Africa summit meeting in 2023 and afterwards declared that the people of Burkina Faso support Russia and that Russia’s embassy would soon reopen. Russia will also be building a nuclear plant in Burkina Faso.

A pattern is emerging. Burkina Faso first achieves and defends its national independence and then pursues development and social justice. A similar two-stage process played out as Cuba, China, Vietnam, Laos, and North Korea made their socialist revolutions with communist parties in the lead. The sequence looks to be characteristic of social change in the Global South, to which these nations are assigned. (North Korea’s climate does not fit, but other features suggest an affinity).

After all, in the industrialized countries, principally Russia and the Eastern European countries, independent nationhood had existed so long as to not impinge on struggles for socialism. Those revolutions did not survive. Maybe the two-stage process, with the insertion of an independence struggle, improves chances that a socialist revolution will last, and maybe even that it happens in the first place.

Developments in Burkina Faso of course are far removed from an advance toward a socialist society. But that kind of progression, quite improbable in Burkina Faso, surely registers with the imperialist powers watching over the country and will influence their course of action.

At CBTU convention, teachers’ leader says: ‘Unions are built for moments like this’

By Emma Glazer

ORLANDO (May 23)—“Unions are built for moments like this,” assured Becky Pringle, President of the National Education Association (NEA), when describing labor’s fight back against the Trump administration.

Pringle was speaking to close out the first day of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) 54th International Convention last Thursday. As leader of the largest teachers union in the U.S., she brought a confident perspective to the fight for democracy and workers’ rights currently underway.

“Public education—universal, free, quality education for all—is the foundation of this or any democracy,” Pringle said. “The Trump administration understands that if they can control what we know, they can control what we believe.”



In order to propagandize against democracy and working-class unity, the far-right continues to fuel a blame game against Black, LGBTQ, and immigrant communities, she said, while at the same time erasing these groups from history and school curriculums.

“We are witnessing a deliberate campaign to divide and distract, to blame immigrants and educators and federal employees, Black, Brown, and LGBTQ people. They’re blaming us for the systemic inequities that are baked into this country’s soil.”

Lia Council, a special education teacher and Yonkers AFT member, also raised concern about the defunding of the Education Department, efforts against DEI, and Secretary of Health Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s spreading of misinformation on autism.

She told *People's World* that trade unionism and teaching go hand in hand "because teachers want the best for their students, and unionists want what is best for all workers."

She described her appreciation for CBTU, describing it as “a coalition that is able to bring together organized labor from all different aspects,” giving the workers’ movement “a broader range and better grasp to challenge Donald Trump and his foolishness.”

As the delegates prepare for the rest of the weekend, CBTU members, and particularly the teachers here, are strategizing, debating, and planning to organize the critical fightback against the capitalist class's full-throated assault on our rights, our unions, and our democracy.

Protesters denounce Executive Order 14288 on fifth anniversary of George Floyd's murder

By Brandon Chew

CHICAGO—The evening of May 25, 2020, was when many first saw the video that has since cemented itself in American history. A Black man who looks as though he's on the verge of death is forced to the ground near the rear wheel of a police cruiser, crying out the all too familiar words: "I can't breathe." On top of him is an officer kneeling on his neck, hands in his pockets, looking directly at the camera as if to taunt the viewer: "What are you going to do about it?"

And indeed, many may be asking themselves that very question.

The murder of [George Floyd](#) in Minneapolis—which followed the lynching of [Ahmaud Arbery](#) in Georgia and the no-knock police killing of [Breonna Taylor](#) in Louisville—set off worldwide protests against police brutality and racism, and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. It sparked initiatives for police reform and raised awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. But fast forward to now, Donald Trump is again the president, and many of those reforms and initiatives are under attack, leaving many wondering what to make of the last five years.

On Sunday, demonstrations were held in cities across the United States in remembrance of George Floyd, including at Federal Plaza in Chicago.

“We’re protesting in honor of five years since George Floyd was murdered by Derek Chauvin of the Minneapolis Police Department,” said Faayani Mijana, press secretary for the [Chicago Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression](#). “It bears mentioning that the main reason Chauvin is behind bars is because of the people power that put him there, and it’s people power that’s going to keep him there.”

Along with commemorating George Floyd and the 2020 Black Lives Matter movement, Mijana also denounced President Donald Trump's [Executive Order 14288](#), which seeks to eliminate federal consent decrees; increase resources and legal protections for law enforcement officers; enhance sentences for crimes against police; increase investment in prisons, and more.



“Ultimately, this means the further criminalization of our people, and we reject it,” Mijana said. “In response to these attacks, the Chicago Alliance pledges to continue and intensify its fight for community control of the police. Because it shouldn’t be those racist politicians in Washington deciding how our communities are run, it’s us, working and oppressed people.”

Community control of police isn't a new concept, but one that first arose out of the Reconstruction period in the southern United States, as noted by Dante, an organizer with the Communist Party, USA's African American Equality Commission.

“Community control is not only a demand but a political struggle for state power, by putting the policy of public safety directly into the hands of the communities that are impacted by police crimes, and gun violence,” he said in a May 24 statement sent to People’s World. “Tax-paying residents, particularly those neighborhoods and families who have lost loved ones to police crimes and gun violence, should have the first say on police who are hired, in addition to firing power, and the police budget. This is the primary step forward in dealing with accountability for the police.”

The CPUSA highlighted the [Empowering Communities for Public Safety](#) (ECPS) ordinance in Chicago as a potential model for other U.S. cities to follow. The ordinance led to the creation of a commission that has increased oversight of Chicago Police operations, including the selection of police leadership.

Protesters denounce Executive Order 14288 on fifth anniversary of George Floyd's murder

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The effort to pass the ordinance was led in part by Frank Chapman, a longtime activist and field secretary for the Chicago Alliance.

Chapman said it is important to commemorate the 2020 BLM movement, which he described as the “largest rebellion in U.S. history,” as the country is currently “morphing into a police state.”

“We need to commemorate that, and we need to remind this government that that rebellion took place and the stern warning that it issued. They have not heeded that,” Chapman told *People's World*. “They have not passed the [George Floyd bill](#). In fact, they're going in the opposite direction. The recent executive orders coming down [from] Trump, he's making the police immune from prosecution. He's trying to extend the police's power so that the police will not be held accountable by the people of this country.”

People's World also spoke with David Stovall, PhD, a professor of Black Studies and Criminology at the University of Illinois, Chicago, to reflect on the last five years and the second Trump administration.

Stovall highlighted the importance of diverting resources from prisons and police, and toward job creation, education, healthcare access, and so on, in order to address the root causes of crime. He also said the 2020 protests helped to raise awareness that racism in the U.S. is a structural issue, something the MAGA movement seeks to distract from by focusing on how white Americans have been put at a “disadvantage.”

“There's no evidence of fewer white males being employed, fewer white males being denied access. But this is the rhetoric that they want to stoke in the general populace,” Stovall said in a May 23 interview. “The Trump administration's job is to shape this narrative to really deny the existence of structural racism.”

Stovall also compared the video of George Floyd's murder to that of the beating of Rodney King, which was filmed when Stovall was a freshman in college.

“One of the things that I was saying to folks then is, ‘Now the world knows what Black people know every day. The only difference is now somebody caught it on tape,’” Stovall said. “I just saw George Floyd as part of that continuum. This is something that Black people know every day, that now the rest of the world will know because somebody caught it on tape.”

Also present at the May 25 rally was Marquinn McDonald, 2nd District Councilman of the [Community Commission for Public Safety & Accountability](#). McDonald said he first heard of George Floyd's murder through someone he knew who was a friend of Floyd's.

“I was on Facebook, and he put up a live stream, and was just in tears,” McDonald said. “He was talking about how George would come into his store [and] he would have great conversations. George was a beautiful soul; a beautiful human being.”

McDonald described the video of Floyd's murder as “atrocious” and “disgusting.”

“The fact of the matter is we need the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act because we need barriers of protection,” McDonald said. “We are not protected.”

He also described Trump's Executive Order 14288 as “absolutely ridiculous.”

“I think it's a clear indicator of who the quote, unquote, ‘leadership’ is inside the office of the president of the United States,” McDonald said. “I think Donald Trump is definitely creating a fascist regime and is trying to take us back to 1930. And if it was up to him, he would probably reinstate Jim Crow.”

“I think Donald Trump needs to be removed out of office. And if the people don't wake up and get together and organize now, we are in serious trouble, and unfortunately, we're going to be in some serious dark times. We are all we have.”

Libertarian hopes Bitcoin would ‘fix the world’ dashed in Las Vegas

By Taryn Fivek

LAS VEGAS—The blonde, leggy emcee with the British accent by way of Dubai keeps prodding the audience for more energy, but the audience assembled on the first day of Bitcoin 2025 this week was lackluster at best. According to the official website, 30,000 people registered for Bitcoin 2025, but they aren't all here yet.

To access the first day's programming, attendees had to shell out, at minimum, \$1,600 for a ticket—or at least have press credentials, as *People's World* does. Yet, the VIPs and professionals assembled here seem disinterested, milling about outside the main hall, on the casino floor, and schmoozing in nearby restaurants. This is no crowd of avid enthusiasts, as such gatherings once were.

The 50 attendees of the [first conference](#), held in the Roosevelt Hotel in New York, may have struggled to imagine that 14 years later, congressional representatives, senators, governors, and a sitting Vice President would one day address an audience of Bitcoiners. Yet, despite the brilliance and power assembled here this week, the vibe is that of just another Vegas trade show.



The first day was dubbed “Code + Country Day” and the emcee announced that it is sponsored by America250, a 501c(3) partner to the allegedly nonpartisan congressional U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, which works alongside the Presidential Task Force to “facilitate robust public-private partnerships that bring the vision for America250 to life.”

They're promising a year of celebration, but while this is the commission responsible for June's military parade in DC and the official semiquincentennial celebrations in 2026, their biggest event so far seems to be Bitcoin 2025 here in Las Vegas.

Perhaps this theme, so close to the U.S. government, is one of the reasons why the audience of enthusiasts was rather sparse on day one. Bitcoin was created in 2009 as a way to circumvent the regulatory mechanisms of the state.

Conjured up by an anonymous creator angered by the 2008 financial crisis and subsequent bank bailouts, it was supposed to “fix the world” by creating a currency that would be limited in number—21 million, to be precise—to prevent inflation, and that could easily slip past regulators and totalitarian governments alike.

Initially, Bitcoin held an unsavory reputation, thanks to it being used as a medium of exchange on the “Dark Web” to buy guns, drugs, and people. Ross Ulbricht, one of the mascots of the Bitcoin community, spent just over a decade in prison for running such a concern, called The Silk Road.

Sentenced to two life sentences without parole, and 144,000 bitcoin seized by the government, he addressed previous bitcoin conferences via calls from federal prison. Yet, on the first full day of Trump’s second term earlier this year, he was granted a full and unconditional pardon.

Ironically, Ulbricht does not get his bitcoin back—the government auctioned it off for nearly \$50 million. Today, that same amount of bitcoin would be worth more than \$15 billion.

What price for freedom?

But who can put a price on freedom? Ulbricht, a stalwart crypto libertarian, is free, and the MAGAified party that freed him now occupies all three branches of government. They are, by definition, the establishment.

Whereas the concept of a libertarian, anti-state digital currency replacing the whole of the global monetary system may have once relegated the constituency to the political margins, the MAGA movement has wholeheartedly embraced the movement, or, at least, its money. It’s clear that the Trump administration does not embrace the cyberpunk flavor of free market economics underwriting bitcoin’s hyperdeflationary ambitions.

His ongoing tariffs saga and market manipulations have been accused by some of being akin to central planning. His administration’s promise to create a strategic Bitcoin reserve that can hedge against the U.S. dollar seems a stretch of Bitcoin’s anti-establishment principles.

Bitcoin hit the big time once politicians started accepting it to finance their campaigns.

Even if they weren’t accepting Bitcoin outright, there’s enough money sloshing around “the space” (what crypto enthusiasts call their community and its ecosystem) that politicians from Eric Adams to Donald Trump started to accept invitations to speak at events years ago.

Day one of the Bitcoin conference is nearly overrun with politicians – even Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem delivered a four-minute video address.

Much of the discussion from the main stage focused on how the Trump administration plans on funding what one of his Executive Orders titled the “Strategic Bitcoin Reserve” and how to push Bitcoin-friendly bills, such as the GENIUS Act, through the legislative branch. Of all the elected officials, Sen. Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming is by far the most familiar face at this conference, having pegged herself as a loyal Bitcoin fan for years at this event.

Others, like junior Sen. Jim Justice, the richest man in West Virginia, who appears with his dog on stage, are clearly new to the space. However, with the total number of government officials standing at 14 (16 if you count Vivek Ramaswamy and Donald Trump Jr.), the volume alone sets a record, with even more to come in the days to follow.

The Vice President of the United States, J.D. Vance, was set to open the second day of the conference. This is, by far, the most powerful person in the world to address the Bitcoin conference—a long road traveled since the Roosevelt Hotel conference in 2011.

What has motivated this coterie of elected officials to Las Vegas this week? Given the plausible deniability built into the Bitcoin protocol itself, it would be hard to know for certain... but it’s safe to say that it’s probably money.

It’s hard to say how much the politicians at Bitcoin 2025 have accepted from the industry outright, but their hamming it up for an underwhelmed and at times somewhat sparse audience means that the Bitcoin space commands that sort of respect.

But on what basis—the libertarian ethos that spawned the movement, or the Blackrock and MAGA-sponsored corporate culture that is increasingly finding new ways to ultimately profit from it, does it continue? Just outside of the main stage, recently freed Ross Ulbricht, described as a “freedom fighter” in the official program, auctioned off his prison memorabilia —some ID cards, a few paintings, even his sneakers—for Bitcoin. As of the end of the first day, most of the items are bidding in the low thousands. His djembe drum, sleeping bag, and Vibram 5-finger shoes are going for just a couple hundred dollars.

House Republicans vote to repeal landmark climate legislation

By Zoya Teirstein

After days of intense political infighting between ultraconservative and moderate Republicans, the House of Representatives voted along party lines on Thursday morning to approve a sweeping tax bill that seeks to eviscerate the heart of landmark climate legislation passed by Democrats just three years ago.

The 2022 climate law on the chopping block—the Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA—was the first legislation in more than a decade to attempt to slash U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and was the centerpiece of former president Joe Biden’s legislative agenda. It provides hundreds of billions of dollars in tax credits, loans, subsidies, and grants to utility companies, automakers, consumers, and others to become more energy-efficient and switch to sources of carbon-free power.

Until recently, the conventional wisdom in Washington was that lawmakers in districts receiving this cash would be disincentivized to undo the legislation supplying it, even under an ultraconservative president like Donald Trump. “Repeal is extremely unlikely,” Neil Chatterjee, a former Republican commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, wrote in an opinion piece for The Hill last August titled “The Solar Investment Tax Credit is safe from repeal even if Republicans win in 2024.” In March, 21 House Republicans signed an open letter calling for any changes to the IRA tax credits to “be conducted in a targeted and pragmatic fashion.”

Yet the House voted 215-214 on Thursday to wind down the IRA’s clean energy tax credits ahead of schedule, including the solar investment tax credit that Chatterjee was sure would be safe.

Just two Republicans voted against the bill, one voted present, and two abstained—including only one of the March letter’s signatories.

Originally, the incentives were set to continue through at least [2032](#). Under the House bill, tax credits for all clean energies except for nuclear, which Republicans tend to view [favorably](#), will apply only to projects that break ground within [60 days](#) of the bill’s enactment and begin sending energy to the grid by the end of 2028, a timeline that could seriously undercut the country’s clean energy industry. Federal tax credits to help consumers adopt clean energy technologies like heat pumps, rooftop solar, battery storage, and electric vehicles would be [phased out](#) by the end of this year.

The House bill needs to be passed by the Senate and signed by President Donald Trump to become law, and it is likely to [change](#) during negotiations in the upper chamber.

Renewable energy developers warn that the House’s timeline for getting projects in service is prohibitively tight and would effectively make some of the [tax credits obsolete](#). “If Congress does not change course, this legislation will upend an economic boom in this country that has delivered a historic American manufacturing renaissance,” said Abigail Ross Hopper, president and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association, in a [statement](#).

The repeals would impact major utility-scale projects that are already underway, such as wind projects, said Katrina McLaughlin, an associate on the World Resources Institute’s U.S. energy team, because it takes a long time to get most renewable projects up and running.

“Placed in service means everything has to go right. We have interconnection queue delays, we have permitting delays, there can be challenges with getting different materials and resources,” McLaughlin said. “So getting in service by 2028 is actually a pretty aggressive timeline.”

In the two years since the IRA was passed, analyses show that federal funding has catalyzed more than \$400 billion in investments in manufacturing, electric vehicles, hydrogen power, renewable energy, and other green initiatives and spurred more than [400,000 new jobs](#). Analyses show that the vast majority of IRA clean energy tax credits and grants—[78 percent](#)—have gone to red districts in rural and suburban areas.

As House Speaker Mike Johnson sought to unite his party behind Trump’s domestic agenda, two warring factions emerged: a far-right coalition focused on attaining deeper [spending cuts](#) by slashing the IRA and Medicare, and a moderate group [agitating to retain clean energy funding](#) in their districts and [increase the cap](#) on how much state and local tax can be deducted from one’s federal taxes—a change that would benefit high earners in blue states.

Unsurprisingly, the lawmaker leading the fight against the IRA comes from an area that hasn’t received much money from it. Representative Chip Roy, leading the ultraconservative crusade, represents a district in Texas that has a little less than a dollar per person in announced IRA investments. Meanwhile, one of his colleagues on the other side of the fight, moderate Republican Representative Nancy Kiggan, comes from a district in Virginia that is slated to receive \$85.50 worth of investments per capita.

Republicans represent 18 of the top 20 congressional districts benefiting the most from clean energy investments since the passage of the IRA, according to the research firm [Atlas Public Policy](#). The top three districts on that list, in North Carolina, Georgia, and Nevada, had together received nearly \$30 billion from the legislation as of March this year. But in the end, all of the Republican lawmakers representing those 18 districts voted in favor of effectively ending the investments. Democrats, whose caucus has shrunk due to the deaths of three members this year, were united in opposition.

In the end, the moderate Republican caucus was willing to trade IRA tax credits for other policy priorities. Moderates in high-tax states like New York were willing to use Biden’s tax credits as a bargaining chip for a higher limit on itemized state and local tax deductions—\$40,000, up from the current cap of \$10,000—a political win, with benefits that those lawmakers could reap immediately, that allowed them to sidestep having to defend legislation passed by a Democratic administration.

Republicans might also be banking on the fact that many of their constituents don’t know about the IRA. A University of Chicago and Associated Press [survey last year](#) found that two years after the IRA passed, most Americans had a supremely flawed understanding of what the legislation is and does, if they knew about it at all. Only 21 percent of adults polled, for example, thought tax credits for individuals to buy electric vehicles were helpful. Nearly 40 percent didn’t know enough to weigh in on the EV tax credits and a shocking 15 percent of those polled thought the policy—which gives consumers up to \$7,500 for a new plug-in EV—hurt people like them.

According to Josh Freed, senior vice president for climate and energy at the think tank Third Way, part of the problem is that the IRA’s clean energy incentives—like new union jobs and major infrastructure projects—take years to manifest. “Not enough clean energy funding got out the door quickly enough,” he said. “It’s having a big impact, don’t get me wrong, but it hasn’t become part of the fabric of communities yet in a way that would freak people out if it disappeared.”

Emergency! Stop the billionaire budget

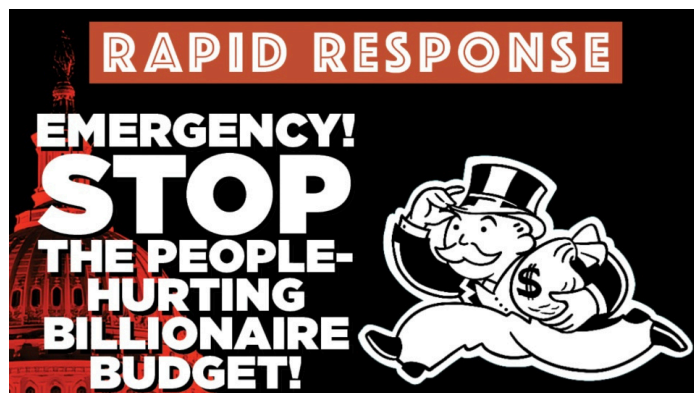
By People’s World

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Indigenous peoples lead resistance to right-wing natural resource grab in Canada

By Dave McKee

TORONTO—In the context of Donald Trump’s trade war, monopoly corporations in Canada have moved swiftly to push political and economic policies which secure and advance their profits and power. Under cover of the “elbows up” slogan, big capital is calling for sweeping changes to everything from interprovincial trade regulations to supply management in agriculture to the very notion of public monopolies on key services.

In Alberta and Ontario, conservative provincial governments are using populist rhetoric to promote and implement this restructuring, particularly in the area of resource extraction. This pits them against a series of social and economic forces that includes the labor and environmental movements—and standing at the forefront of that resistance are Indigenous peoples.

In Alberta, Premier Danielle Smith is using “Alberta separatism” as populist cover for asserting and extending the control and influence of oil and gas monopolies over the province’s politics and economy.

Smith’s loyalty to Big Carbon has been on full display throughout the trade-tariff war, beginning with her demand that Canada exclude \$120 billion in oil and gas exports to the U.S. from retaliatory surcharges. This move demonstrated clearly that her priority is to maintain profits for huge energy monopolies.

During the federal election, as the Liberals’ lead over the Conservatives grew, Smith began to muse openly about Alberta separation as a way to protect against Ottawa’s “interference” in the province’s resource sector. And of course, just one day after the Liberals’ re-election, her government tabled Bill 54, the Election Statutes Amendment Act, which dramatically lowers the threshold for citizen-led referendums and opens the door to heavy corporate lobbying during those referendums.

“Citizen-led democracy” or pro-corporate legislation?

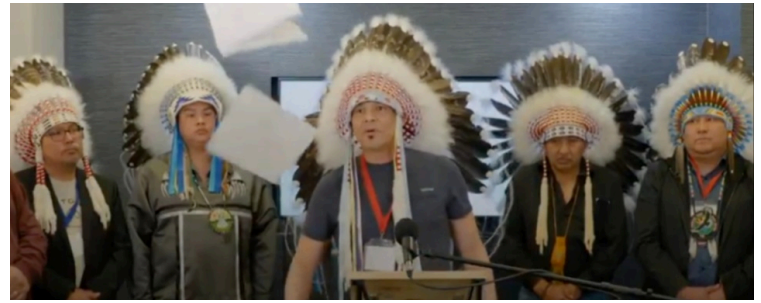
Smith and her allies claim that Bill 54 is all about citizen-led democracy and government accountability. But it’s really a clever piece of pro-corporate legislation which pushes aside the voices of working people and, especially, threatens the sovereign rights of Indigenous peoples and nations in Canada.

In response, First Nations and Métis groups in Alberta and beyond spoke up against the referendum proposal and separatism in particular. The key point of departure is that the land on which the province of Alberta exists is governed by treaties between First Nations and the Crown [the Canadian federal government], which pre-date the province’s emergence in 1905. Treaty 6 (1876), Treaty 7 (1877), and Treaty 8 (1899) together cover almost the entire landmass of Alberta. They codify Indigenous people’s rights to hunting, fishing, trapping, land reserves, payments, education and health support, and peaceful coexistence.

In a joint letter, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Chief Sheldon Sunshine and Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro pointed out to Smith that the legal standing of treaties takes precedence over her narrow provincial political ambitions and those of her corporate backers.

“The province of Alberta is on Treaty lands. Please be advised that your irresponsible statements and actions are in breach of Treaties No. 6, 7, and 8. We demand that you immediately stand down from this conduct. Our Treaties are sacred covenants and are to last forever. Alberta did not exist when our ancestors agreed to share the land with the Crown. The province has no authority to supersede or interfere with our Treaties, even indirectly by passing the buck to a ‘citizen’ referendum.”

The two chiefs also sent a joint letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney, reinforcing that Indigenous nations’ relationship is with the federal government and not with provinces. “As you know, Canada is founded on Treaties that were sacred covenants between the Crown and our ancestors to share the lands,” they wrote.



“We are not prepared to accept any further Treaty breaches and violations. We respectfully ask that you get the province of Alberta in line.”

Kimball Cariou, who was born on Treaty 6 territory with a family background of European immigrants and Métis ancestors, is the chair of the Communist Party of Canada’s Indigenous Commission. He told People’s Voice that Alberta’s referendum legislation is directly connected to the interests of huge corporations.

“Danielle Smith’s government is a front acting in the interests of the big fossil fuel monopolies, not the people of Alberta. Her government was not elected by any so-called nation, and it is not a signatory to any of the treaties (4, 6, 7, 8, and 10) negotiated by First Nations, which cover the entire territory of that province.

“These treaties were never ‘land surrender’ instruments; they are agreements to share the land base in return for certain benefits for their original peoples in perpetuity. There is no legal basis for the ‘government of Alberta’ to organize any so-called referendum on the theft of these lands or the separation of Alberta from Canada.

“The Communist Party of Canada condemns the ‘Alberta Referendum Act’ as a form of aggression against the First Nations and the Metis Nation, and a dangerous threat to the working class of Alberta.”

Ontario “unleashing” corporate profiteering

There is a similar struggle brewing in Ontario, where Premier Doug Ford used the federal election as a distraction to introduce Bill 5, the Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, on April 17. This legislation would provide the government with a sweeping range of powers to speed up development—especially in the province’s mining sector—including the ability to designate “special economic zones.” Within these zones, the provincial government would be able to suspend or override all existing laws and regulations, including municipal regulations, relating to labor conditions, health and safety, and environmental protections.

Fred Hahn, president of the Ontario branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), warns that Bill 5 is a Trojan Horse that will seriously shift power toward corporate monopolies. “Existing Ontario labor law won’t apply in these special economic zones. Under the cloak of an impending economic crisis and the guise of fighting tariffs, Doug Ford plans on delivering workers to the Wild West of working conditions, all to the benefit of big business.”

As in Alberta, Indigenous people have quickly recognized the threat which this pro-corporate framework poses to their rights. Within days of the legislation being proposed, the Chiefs of Ontario issued a statement warning that “First Nations rights cannot be ‘unleashed’.”

“As we have said time and time again, any development or legislation that affects First Nations’ inherent or Treaty rights must have their free, prior, and informed consent,” said Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict. “First Nations are keen to uplift their communities and people, but it cannot come at the expense of their rights, wellbeing, or their environments.”

Noting Ford's statement that the vast mineral-rich Northern Ontario region known as the Ring of Fire will be one of the first special economic zones, Regional Chief Benedict insisted that Indigenous rights will not be waived:

"These 'special economic zones' are vaguely defined and could be used to try and undermine our rights and ignore our sovereignty.

You can't 'unleash' our rights or our sacred responsibilities to our lands and waters with the wave of a pen.

The government and mining proponents will need to work with each individual Nation that could be impacted by any given development to ensure they are adequately consulted and freely consent to any activities within their territories."

Clearly, there is a basis for building broad resistance to these resource grabs by Smith and Ford, as well as others. Unions, environmental organizations, and other social movements need to unite in solidarity with Indigenous peoples to mobilize an escalating campaign that can defeat this kind of pro-corporate development, and promote and win democratic development strategies which are rooted in sovereignty and self-determination, working people's needs, and climate and environmental justice.

DEI belongs in union contracts because corporate promises aren't enough

By Dom Shannon

ORLANDO—When Big Business and far-right politicians wage war on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), workers need more than vague assurances from corporations—they need enforceable protections codified in federal law and in collective bargaining agreements. That's why labor leaders at the 54th Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) International Convention made it clear that DEI must be cemented into union contracts in the first place.

"Black excellence is not a fluke...it's inseparable from the greatness that we say this country is!" declared Rev. Terry L. Melvin, President of CBTU, setting the tone for a convention centered on defending Black workers from the fascistic attacks on the labor movement and, in doing so, defending the rights of all workers, regardless of race, in the United States.

The stakes couldn't be higher, said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, who drew a direct line between today's battles and the Civil Rights Movement. "There's a reason in the 1960s and 70s, the Civil Rights Movement and labor movement came together. It was because we knew being divided did not serve us."

She warned that the Trump administration's efforts to erase Black history and dismantle DEI initiatives are a push to revive "the days of hatred and division." Building unity between the labor movement and the civil rights movement was repeatedly stressed all weekend.

Why union contracts matter

For Black workers, the assault on DEI isn't something abstract—it's direct economic sabotage and creates an even more unequal division of society, allowing bosses to more thoroughly exploit all workers. Everett Kelley, President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), put it bluntly: "Black workers are being targeted; plain and simple."

Federal jobs, long a gateway to higher living standards for Black Americans, are under siege. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Black workers make up 18% of the federal workforce—5% higher than their share of the U.S. population—making attacks on these jobs disproportionately impact Black workers. When you factor in the Postal Workers, nearly 30% of these workers are Black. And, every day the attacks on the federal workforce continue, the days when the entire union movement and all workers come under attack grow closer.

But the threat goes deeper. Far-right agendas like Project 2025 have pushed to eliminate the collection of racial employment data by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), making the phony argument that tracking workforce demographics could lead to "discrimination" claims—a thinly veiled attempt to dismantle accountability for racial bias and discrimination. Without this data, proving systemic discrimination becomes nearly impossible, paving the way for further oppression of Black workers.

The consequences are already visible. Under Trump's current administration, mass federal job cuts by Elon Musk's "Department of Government Efficiency" disproportionately impacted Black workers.



For example, if out of the 260,000 federal workers who lost their jobs or retired early, nearly 50,000 of them were likely Black workers. These cuts, framed as eliminating "waste, fraud, and abuse," function as a "race-neutral" facade for policies that will systematically push Black workers out of previously stable government jobs.

The danger extends beyond employment. Trump's recent executive order, ostensibly aimed at "strengthening law enforcement," opens the door for military involvement in policing while rolling back consent decrees that held discriminatory police departments accountable. The language of "criminals" and "innocent citizens" in such policies has always carried racist undertones—and no one should mistake who will bear the brunt of these measures—Black workers.

April Lott, President of AFGE Local 3627 and a longtime federal employee, knows the value of these opportunities firsthand. "I started working for the federal government straight out of high school," she told *People's World*. "This is what we want for the next generation—good jobs that let them provide for their families and build a future."

But without strong safeguards, both in federal policy and the workplace, those opportunities can vanish. "Corporations can promise you all day long," Lott said, "but that union contract is a solid document." She stressed to *People's World* that embedding DEI in contracts ensures fairness for all workers—"regardless of color, race, gender, or sexual orientation."

Gary Grant, Civil Rights Director of UAW Local 7, echoed the sentiment: "We have to protect [DEI], and the only way to protect it truly is with a union contract." Even amid corporate rollbacks, he argued, workers must fight to lock in protections because "CEOs have their own interests. And we [workers] have our own interests."

The convention closed with delegates passing a resolution to "prioritize equity-based contract language"—a concrete step toward shielding DEI from political backlash embedded in union collective bargaining agreements. As Melvin put it: "DEI has made America and the world better, not worse. So don't run from it, run to it. And...knock them the hell over!"

Private U.S. firm lures starving Palestinians to food distribution 'death traps'

By Morning Star

"Complete chaos" engulfed the start of a controversial U.S. humanitarian relief plan in Gaza today as thousands of starving Palestinians mobbed the first aid distribution center set up by the private U.S. agency Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), and mercenaries fired live rounds to disperse them.

Israel has blocked almost all aid from the Gaza Strip for months, leading aid agencies to warn the territory faces famine.

The private U.S. group was selected as Israel has blocked work by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), based on unsubstantiated claims it employs Hamas militants. UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said today that Israel has still to provide evidence for its "very serious claims" about operatives of the agency being involved in the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel.

Other aid groups said the GHF lacked experience in delivering aid to a famine-stricken war zone and was out of its depth, besides criticisms that the entire scheme politicizes aid, which will only be distributed in areas under Israeli military control.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine warned that the aid distribution centers were "death traps" and that Palestinians trying to get food at them would also risk arrest by Israeli forces.

The official number of Palestinians killed during Israel's invasion surpassed 54,000 today, with 79 more people killed in 24 hours. Israel also expanded its violence in the West Bank, firing live bullets and tear gas as they raided bureaux de change in Nablus in an operation with obscure motives. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said Israel was trying to create a "flare-up" in the West Bank to justify more aggressive military action, with annexation the end goal.

The country's international isolation continued to grow, with the Irish government confirming it will debate a Bill on banning imports from Israeli settlements.

But Israel's government boasted today its supplies of military equipment continue to arrive uninterrupted, with the Defence Ministry bragging the 800th flight since the war started carrying weapons and ammunition had arrived, bringing the total to over 90,000 tons of supplies. Britain's RAF Akrotiri base on Cyprus is believed to be a key link in the supply chain for Israel's war machine.

Los maquinistas consiguen un nuevo contrato tras una huelga de tres semanas

By Joelle Fishman

EAST HARTFORD, Connecticut—El espíritu de lucha se mantuvo firme durante los 23 días de huelga de los miembros de los Locales 1743 de la IAM en Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford, y 700 en Middletown. "Estoy muy orgulloso de la fuerza y la determinación de nuestros miembros. Estoy muy orgulloso de la fuerza y la determinación que todos han demostrado en la línea", declaró Wayne McCarthy, presidente del Local 1746.

Esta fuerza y unidad de los trabajadores, sumada a la solidaridad generalizada del movimiento sindical estatal, las comunidades locales y los funcionarios electos de todos los niveles, llevó a la multimillonaria corporación Pratt & Whitney/RTX de nuevo a la mesa de negociaciones con una oferta mejorada que aborda algunas de las principales preocupaciones.

Sus ganancias, que ascienden a miles de millones, en el último trimestre fueron un 41 % superiores a las del año pasado.

En el Teatro Oakdale, se pusieron a disposición de los miembros copias del acuerdo propuesto para su revisión. El comité negociador recomendó que los trabajadores lo aceptaran. Por 1608 votos a favor y 562 en contra, el nuevo contrato fue ratificado con el 74% de los votos.

TRX, la empresa matriz de Pratt & Whitney, obtuvo importantes avances al abrir una nueva planta en Carolina del Norte sin sindicatos. El contrato garantiza que los empleos en Connecticut se mantendrán en el estado de la empresa durante su vigencia, hasta 2029.

"Nos mantuvimos firmes y logramos ajustes en las áreas que más nos preocupaban. En general, la unión nos ha permitido llegar a una mejor situación", dijo Michael Lamoureux, presidente del comité de huelga del Local 700.

Para nosotros, lo más importante era la estabilidad laboral. En la última propuesta no se habló de estabilidad laboral. En esta, hablan de mantener el empleo en Middletown y East Hartford y de sus planes de expansión. Conseguimos un año más de pensión y un aumento para los afiliados al plan 401K. El aumento salarial general se ajustó del 4% al 6% en el primer año.

Los aumentos salariales para los próximos tres años son del 3,5 % (2026), 3 % (2027) y 3 % (2028).

También se lograron mayores contribuciones de los empleadores a la jubilación.

"Nuestro comité trabajó incansablemente para garantizar que se escucharan las prioridades de nuestros miembros, y este acuerdo es resultado directo de esa determinación", declaró Jeff Santini, Representante Directivo de Negocios del Distrito 26 del Sindicato IAM. "Estamos orgullosos de lo logrado y aún más orgullosos de la solidaridad demostrada por nuestros miembros a lo largo de este proceso".

"Pratt & Whitney es líder en la industria aeroespacial gracias a la dedicación y la habilidad de nuestros miembros", declaró David Sullivan, Vicepresidente General del Territorio Este del Sindicato IAM. "La voz de los miembros se escuchó alto y claro, y este nuevo acuerdo refleja el valor que aportan a Pratt & Whitney. Felicito a este comité por reflejar la voluntad de los miembros".

Pratt & Whitney acordó volver a la mesa de negociaciones inmediatamente después de que 2300 delineantes marinos de Electric Boat, representados por el sindicato United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 571, obtuvieran una nueva propuesta de contrato, presentada dramáticamente minutos antes de la fecha límite de la huelga. La recomendación del comité de negociación sindical para aceptarla fue ratificada esta semana, incluyendo un aumento salarial del 30 % durante el contrato de cinco años, entre otros logros.

Durante la huelga, los trabajadores de IAM comprendieron que lo que lograrían elevaría el estándar para todos los trabajadores en Connecticut y a nivel nacional.

La IAM (Asociación Internacional de Maquinistas y Trabajadores Aeroespaciales) representa a 600.000 miembros activos y jubilados de las industrias aeroespacial, de construcción naval, ferroviaria, de tránsito, de atención médica y automotriz en Estados Unidos y Canadá.

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