

## **RESOLUTION ON BUYING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FROM WORKER OWNED COOPERATIVES /WORKER COLLECTIVES**

**WHEREAS** the National Lawyers Guild is dedicated to the proposition that human rights are more sacred than property interests, and is dedicated to protecting and expanding the rights of workers; and

**WHEREAS** the right of workers to safe and secure jobs that pay a living wage is a human right; and

**WHEREAS** through worker-ownership workers can create a democratic workplace and society, in which they are in control of the management, governance and ownership of their places of work; and

**WHEREAS** the National Lawyers Guild has been at the forefront of the legal fights for workers' rights, such as organizing the UAW and the CIO, legalizing the right to organize and bargain collectively, defending against the cold war on labor, building international labor solidarity, and defending labor rights activists; and

**WHEREAS** the National Lawyers Guild has resolved to not buy products and services from non-union vendors, including worker owned collectives, when unionized vendors are available; and

**WHEREAS** it is inconsistent with the principles, history and practice of the National Lawyers Guild to disallow purchases from worker-owned collectives and cooperatives that are fighting for the same human rights as unions.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that any goods or services purchased for use by the National Lawyers Guild in its daily operations or for special occasions such as conventions, meetings, demonstrations, delegations, and the like, be purchased, whenever possible, from vendors which have collective bargaining agreements with their workers' unions **or** worker-owned collectives **or** cooperatives, and that whenever possible any such products purchased will display the union bug or label; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that when purchasing goods or services, any committee, project, office, region, or chapter of the National Lawyers Guild should first choose worker or cooperatively owned businesses, unionized workplaces, union made products, or products which display the "Union Bug." In the event that this is not possible, either because of an emergency or because there are no such providers in the area, said group should make a report informing the Regional Vice President or Executive Director and explaining what was purchased and the specific facts of the situation. Further, chapters are encouraged to maintain a list of compliant businesses, which they should share with the Regional Vice President. The Regional Vice President is also encouraged to maintain such a list.

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