

# ***Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 4/8/2024***

## **Is This Job Making Us Sick?**

Many of us want to have better health. But do our current working conditions at AC set us up for success? When we have to commute long distances, spend long hours behind the wheel and away from home, do we have the time to prepare a healthy meal or adequate breakrooms where we can heat it up? Where we have layovers, are there options where they sell healthy food? Do we have time to engage in real physical activity? It's not an accident that transit workers suffer some of the highest rates of various health issues such as diabetes, high blood pressure, back pain and more. For all of this talk about "wellness" and "work life balance," what is the reality?

## **Ride It Till the Supports Fall Off?**

Many of us saw images where a ship ran into a bridge in Baltimore, leading to its total collapse. While the collision of the boat with the bridge may be somewhat of a freak accident, it didn't help that the bridge was built in 1970 and did not have maximum structural support. According to engineers, roughly half of the bridges in California have exceeded their design life and need maintenance, repair, and replacement. 7% of bridges in the state are characterized as "structurally deficient" and "poor", including along the I-80 corridor. Feel good commuting to and from work?

## **Race War Or Class War?**

Recently, Donald Trump has been ramping up his bigotry, particularly directed towards immigrants. He has called them, "not human" and "animals" who are "poisoning the blood of our country." This dehumanizing language is harmful to migrants by encouraging violence. It is also harmful to all of us by dividing us against each other rather than directing our anger where it belongs - people like Trump, Biden and the system that they defend!



**SpeakOutSocialists.org**

## **32 Hour Work Week?**

Ever feel like you're working far too much, for far too little? Since the late 1970s, worker productivity has grown about **4 times** vs. the amount we are paid. The vast majority of that surplus from our increased productivity has gone to our bosses. To make this right, working people nationwide would need to demand pay increases of 300% to 400%! Or, we could demand that we work only one-third or one-quarter of the hours we work today for the same pay. That would be a nationwide average work week of somewhere between 10 and 20 hours per week. That's right, 20 hours or less. While these demands may seem outrageous, that's because our bosses have been robbing us outrageously for decades!

The only way that we, the working class, have ever gotten anything is through struggle against the people who exploit us. As long as those people exist, skimming profit off the top of our labor, we will have to struggle against them to improve our lives. We have the power to carry out the struggles that we need. We don't need proposals to Congress, a union president's permission, and we can't expect change from the rest of the political system.

We can only rely on ourselves. And when we do, and when we build our power, then the possibilities of more than just a 32-hour workweek become within our reach.

## **Upcoming Event:**

### **We Will Not Be Sacrificed!**

### **Reports from "Sacrifice Zones"**

Fossil fuel industries continue their expansion at the expense of the ecosystems, and communities. Chemical and radioactive waste products affect all of us by contaminating the air, soil, and waterways. These waste products are concentrated in "Sacrifice Zones" where residents and workers are lied to. The industries and the politicians who serve them, have made it clear that they are not going to protect us. Hear from people directly impacted by the fossil fuel industry and their fights to put an end to sacrificing the environment and their lives for profits.

**Berkeley, CA (4pm PT),**

**2727 California Street, Berkeley**

**Or Join Online: [TINYURL.COM/SON-TH](https://tinyurl.com/son-th)**

**IG: @sonsocialists**

