



**Workers United/SEIU Celebrates Biden Administration Commitment to Good Jobs Creating
Safe Masks for Essential Workers;
Union Garment Shops Win Federal Contracts to Make Up to 22 Million Masks,
Just like the One that the President Wears**

Philadelphia, PA, March 30, 2021- With COVID-19 cases surging again in many states and President Biden imploring Governors to reinstate mask mandates to combat this newest spike, America's unionized garment factories are once again stepping to the forefront of helping the nation combat the coronavirus – just as they have since the very onset of the pandemic.

Indeed, Workers United said today that the hundreds of members of the workforce it represents at Ferrara Manufacturing of New York and Unionwear in Newark, NJ are now fulfilling a joint procurement contract that the Biden administration awarded to produce up to 17.3 million face masks, with the possibility the government could add to the contract and purchase up to 22 million face masks. The masks will be made in America with American sourced supplies and provided to essential workers at community health clinics, food pantries, and soup kitchens across the nation.

“This is exactly what it means to Build Back Better,” said Lynne Fox, President of Workers United, who proudly pointed out that the black mask that President Biden wears at his public events is union-made by Ferrara. “The Biden Administration has proven today that when the federal government leads a key marketplace as a buyer, with the right standards, American companies and workers can meet the demand, stabilize the economy, create good jobs, and propel the recovery forward. So I know I speak for our members in saying that we are honored to partner in helping serve our nation’s ongoing crisis.”

Moreover, Fox stressed that, unlike in the previous administrations that procured PPE from other countries, the essential workers who will receive these masks, “can rest assured they are wearing top quality, safe products made by neighbors and allies right here in America.”

Fox went on to praise President Biden, “who not only has his government buying made-in-America PPE, he wears a union made Ferrara mask himself,” which has been featured in his official tweets and photos over the past month.

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Edgar Romney, Secretary-Treasurer of Workers United, added that, “I am thrilled for the family owners at Ferrara, for their partner company Parkdale Mills, and for all the union members who work at Ferrara and Unionwear. For the past year, these workers and other Workers United members at over 30 companies responded to this horrible pandemic by using their skills to make millions of masks, gowns, and face shields for essential workers and the general public all over America. They faced devastating loss with courage, creativity, and service. Bravo to all of them and to the Biden Administration for this example of what we are capable of in this country.”

Workers United, which is based in Philadelphia and affiliated with SEIU, represents some 75,000 apparel, laundry, food service, and manufacturing workers in the U.S. and Canada.

Workers United has worked in partnership with the member companies of the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) for over a year on PPE related issues. Read their press release [HERE](#).

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