Resolution 1: Starbucks Off Our Campus

Abstract: This resolution proposed a University policy that terminates Cornell University’s relationship with Starbucks Coffee in response to their repeated illegal anti-worker efforts, including the closing of union stores in Ithaca, New York.

Sponsored by: Suraj Parikh ‘26, Claire Ting ‘25, Patrick Kuehl ‘24, Karys Everett ‘25, Casey Platkin ‘26, Nick Wilson, Danielle Donovan, Grant Moravec, Evan Sunshine, Kassidy Slaughter

Reviewed by: Executive Committee 4-0-1

Type of Action: Legislation

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Current Status: Business of the Day, 10-1-0

Whereas, Ithaca, New York is the first and only town in America where 100% of Starbucks workers are unionized;

Whereas, Starbucks announced on May 5th that they would be permanently shutting down all three corporate-owned stores in Ithaca;

Whereas, Starbucks has repeatedly engaged in illegal union-busting tactics across the country, including in Ithaca, where the NLRB found several violations against the company and ordered the reopening of their Collegetown location that was closed in retaliation;

Whereas, Cornell maintains licensing relationships with other coffee companies, and has the demonstrated capacity to serve coffee on campus without working with Starbucks;

Whereas, the Charter of the Student Assembly in Article III, Section 1 provides, “the SA will have legislative authority over the policies of the Department of Campus Life and the Office of the Dean of Students, and will have the authority to review the budgets and actions of said departments” which thereby vests it with the authority, provided the asset of the University President is given, to determine policy for the Department of Student and Campus Life and it subordinate entities, including Cornell Dining;

Now, Be it therefore resolved, that it shall be the policy of the Department of Student and Campus Life and Cornell Dining to reassess its relationship with Starbucks and withdraw from the ‘We Proudly Serve Starbucks program no later than the beginning of the Fall 2023 Semester;

Be it further resolved, that for the purposes of this resolution, “Starbucks products” shall be defined as all products sold under the ‘Starbucks We Proudly Serve’ line;

Be it finally resolved, the Cornell Student Assembly requires that the University, through the Department of Student and Campus Life and Cornell Dining, commits to no longer serving Starbucks branded products in dining locations, and collaborating with student advocates and
Starbucks Workers United to implement a new, ethical, non-union-busting, campus-wide coffee vendor by the start of the Fall 2023 semester.

Respectfully Submitted,

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