

A CALL TO ACTION from the VIRGINIA PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

On Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010, hundreds of activists from the labor, civil rights, immigrant, prisoner advocacy, student, health, anti-war movements & more will meet & march & rally to tell the new governor & the Virginia General Assembly:

- (1) Don't balance the budget on the backs of Virginia's workers!**
- (2) Raise Virginia's income tax on large corporations – the 2nd lowest in the country!**
- (3) Enact an immediate moratorium on layoffs, cutbacks, evictions & foreclosures!**
- (4) No scapegoating of immigrants! Equality for people of color, women & the LGBT community!**
- (5) Money for jobs & education, not for prisons, wars & occupations!**

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, the Virginia General Assembly will open its 2010 session. We'll have a new governor, but the same old problem: the state budget has been hit hard by the recession, resulting in rising unemployment and steep losses in income tax and sales tax revenue. Already, \$7 billion has been cut from the present two-year budget. Sometime in December, outgoing Gov. Tim Kaine will unveil his proposal for the state's next two-year budget. That document will be the basis for discussion at the General Assembly - and it will be chock-full of layoffs and cutbacks that will hurt all working people, coming down hardest on people of color and women.

Of course, there will be arguments about how to carry out the cuts, but one thing that all politicians of both major parties agree on is that the only way to balance the state budget is to lay off state workers, cut needed social services and aid to the cities and counties and find a million-and-one other ways to squeeze the hides of Virginia's working people.

Meanwhile, all the politicians will try their very best to ignore this one simple fact: **VIRGINIA HAS THE SECOND LOWEST CORPORATE INCOME TAX IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!** This means that the wealthiest people in the state are not paying their fair share of the tax burden! Leveling the playing field could mean balancing the budget without having to hurt those who are already suffering the real effects of the recession: the layoffs, cutbacks, evictions and foreclosures. We're not talking here about small businesses that already are being crushed by Virginia's regressive tax rates. **We're demanding that the banks and big corporations like Dominion, Philip Morris, Massey Energy, Northrop Grumman, Verizon and Media General pay their fair share!**

COME TO THE 2010 PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY – & MARCH ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY!

In response to this deepening economic, social and political crisis, the **Virginia People's Assembly** will be holding our **2nd Annual People's Assembly on Jan. 9**, the Saturday before the opening day of the General Assembly. (9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., location to be announced shortly.) We will immediately follow our Assembly with a **3 p.m. downtown rally** and a **4 p.m. march through the Financial District**, past the offices of the banks and corporations that really run Virginia, then finish the march at Capitol Square.

We invite you to join us. It's no longer enough for each organization or community to go to the General Assembly to lobby separately. The challenges we all face are too great. We will either stand together or go down separately. **Our only hope is to unite all who can be united and come together in one powerful voice!**

WE APPEAL TO YOU TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) Endorse this Call for a Jan. 9 March on the Virginia General Assembly**
- (2) Plan now to attend the 2010 Virginia People's Assembly and the march & rally**
- (3) Help spread the word and organize to bring more people to these important events**

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS COUPON AND RETURN IT TO: VPA, PO Box 38441, Henrico, VA 23231

- I and/or my organization endorse the Call for a Jan. 9 March on the General Assembly
 I and/or my organization plan to attend the 2010 Virginia People's Assembly.
 I want to help spread the word about these events. Let me know how I can help.
 Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____. (Please make checks payable to "R.I.H.D." with the notation "VPA.")

Name _____
Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day phone: _____ Evening phone _____
E-mail _____
Organization, Union, School (if any) _____

You can also e-mail us at: vapeoplesassembly@gmail.com
For more information, please visit us on the Web at: www.vapeoplesassembly.org
and on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=50508336564>