

**Remarks from Wade Walvatne at New Flyer in St. Cloud Minnesota, February 9, 2023**

*As Prepared*

Hello, my name is Wade Walvatne. I'm a maintenance technician here at New Flyer and the vice president of CWA Local 7304.

Millions of people in the United States depend on us to make sure that the buses they ride are reliable and safe.

New Flyer values its skilled workforce and every worker in our union has a voice in how we get the job done. At some places, if you don't like what's going on your only choice is to walk out the door. With a union, there's a process for changing things for the better, and you've got a whole bunch of people there to back you up.

I live about an hour away from my parents and my nieces and nephews. Thanks to investments that the Biden Harris Administration has made, we have been busy filling orders from transportation systems across the country. Our newest contract, specifically the reduction in required overtime in our contract, especially for Saturdays, means that I along with all of my colleagues are able to spend more time with our families.

In our last contract we also negotiated higher wages, paid maternity leave, and time off for Juneteenth and religious holidays - all things that help our work-life balance and strengthen our community.

Vice President Kamala Harris has fought for families like ours for her whole career. She and President Biden secured funding in the bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act to help state and local governments make the transition to electric buses, which will keep us busy for a long time. Vice President Harris led the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment and is pushing for the Protecting the Right to Organize Act so millions of American workers who want to join a union will be able to join a union.

Madam Vice President, on behalf of the union members here at New Flyer, I thank you and President Biden for your commitment to rebuilding the middle class in this country by investing in good, union jobs.

Now, it is my honor to introduce the Vice President of the United States of America, Kamala Harris.