RESOLUTION 00-13

REGARDING GENERAL ELECTRIC'S DECISION TO TERMINATE 1,400 JOBS IN BLOOMINGTON

WHEREAS, General Electric has decided to terminate 1,400 jobs in Bloomington, replacing them with poorly paid jobs in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, GE is relocating to a country where independent unions are repressed and international financial institutions have imposed worker austerity; and

WHEREAS, the loss of jobs in Bloomington will not only cause suffering to the workers losing them but also have a negative impact on the whole Bloomington area; and

WHEREAS, over many years, GE has enjoyed community support through tax abatements, training grants, and infrastructure assistance; and

WHEREAS, GE employees have been major contributors to community organizations, such as the United Way of Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, local officials, private and public, including the Mayor, County Commissioners, Indiana Department of Commerce, BEDC, and IBEW Local 2249, offered an aggressive incentive package to GE to preserve all of the current jobs at the Bloomington GE plant; and

WHEREAS, GE officials agreed to invest $100 million in the Bloomington plant, preserving approximately 60% of the existing workforce; and

WHEREAS, in moving the remaining jobs to Mexico, GE ignores an obligation to act as a good citizen where its workers have made it profitable and the community has supported it; and

WHEREAS, in protest against G.E.'s decision, IBEW Local 2249 at GE in Bloomington, the White River Central Labor Council—AFL-CIO, South Central Indiana Jobs with Justice, Indiana University No Sweat, and others—are planning a peaceful rally on April 29, 2000 at noon at the Monroe County Courthouse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Common Council expresses its disappointment with GE officials regarding its decision to terminate 1,400 jobs at the GE Bloomington plant.

SECTION 2. The Common Council expresses its continued support for GE employees and their families, and the Common Council expresses its commitment to supporting education, retraining, job placement, and other efforts to be provided by local agencies for the affected workers.

SECTION 3. The Common Council further encourages citizens of Bloomington to attend the rally on April 29, 2000 in the Courthouse Square in downtown Bloomington in order to show solidarity with those GE workers who are losing their jobs due to GE's decision.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 19th day of April, 2000.

TIMOTHY MAYER, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Regina Moore

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 20th day of April, 2000.

Regina Moore

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 20 day of April, 2000.

JOHN FERNANDEZ, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution is sponsored by Chris Gaal and Jeffrey Willsey and concerns the decision of General Electric to terminate 1,400 jobs at its Bloomington plant. In that regard the resolution: expresses the Council's disappointment with GE's decision to terminate the 1,400 jobs; expresses support for the workers and their families, especially in the way of efforts to retrain and find other employment for the affected workers; and, encourages citizens to attend a rally on April 29th sponsored by labor and other community organizations.