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For Immediate Release

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Working America Launches “I Am Not Your ATM” Campaign

Campaign against Wall Street ramps up with photos, messages, letters for financial reform
www.notyouratm.com

(Washington, March 15) Working America launched a campaign today called “I am not your ATM” to send the message to Wall Street that working people will no longer clean up their mess. The campaign builds on massive activity already under way to hold big banks accountable and call on Congress to act. The website, www.notyouratm.com, encourages participants to submit photos in front of ATMs with a message to Wall Street that Working America will deliver. Already, hundreds of photos from across the country are on the site asking “Where’s my bailout?” and “Hey Wall Street! I’m not your ATM.”

As part of the campaign, Working America community organizers will hold events in 12 cities, including Minneapolis, Little Rock, Cleveland, and Philadelphia, urging residents to take action against big banks. Working America is specifically calling for an independent Consumer Financial Protection Agency and a financial responsibility fee. The “I am not your ATM” campaign is kicking off as part of the AFL-CIO’s weeks of action confronting banks for their greed.

Working America plans to deliver the photos along with 10,000 handwritten letters and messages recorded for big banks during their shareholder meetings so Wall Street will hear, see, and read first-hand how angry Main Street is.

“Working people are livid with big banks and looking for ways to express that anger for the destruction of the Main Street economy,” said Karen Nussbaum, executive director of Working America. “We’re delivering the message to Wall Street that we are not their ATMs, and we’ll no longer have any role in bailing them out while we struggle to keep our heads above water.”

Since the beginning of 2010, Working America has mounted a massive campaign to call for financial reform and highlight Wall Street’s role in the destruction of the Main Street economy. Working America’s action against Wall Street centers on conversations in neighborhoods each night across the country. Every week, Working America community organizers speak to 25,000 people about their anger and desire for action against the culprits of the economic crisis.

In the campaign against Wall Street, Working America will deliver 70,000 fliers asking people to participate in holding big banks accountable. Working America members have already sent 140,000 faxes to big banks and Congress informing them of their “Final

Notice” for what they did to the U.S. economy. In addition, Working America is in the midst of tele-town halls reaching 100,000 people which include a call to action to demand financial reform.

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Working America, community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, represents working families to mobilize around economic issues like health care and good jobs. Working America represents 3 million people and is the fastest-growing organization for working people in the country. For more information, go to www.workingamerica.org.

