

**For Immediate Release
November 5, 2001**

**Contact:
Rob Black, (202) 624-6877
Cell, (202) 439-1895**

TEAMSTERS APPLAUD MARTIN SHEEN'S ACTING IN ANWR AD

Pretend President Champions Pretend Facts

(Washington, D.C.) – The Teamsters Union today applauded the Oscar-worthy performance of actor Martin Sheen in a series of commercials against opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Sheen, who also portrays fictional President Josiah Bartlett on the television series *The West Wing* lends his voice to a trailer played in more than a dozen movie theaters across the United States. The segment repeats many of the same untruths espoused by opponents of opening ANWR.

"I couldn't think of a more perfect champion for these pretend facts than a pretend president," said Jerry Hood, Teamsters Special Assistant for Energy Policy. "The environmental lobby have repeated these half-truths for months, hoping that will make them true."

In the commercials Sheen states that ANWR contains "six months of oil" when, in reality, ANWR could supply the United States with a safe, reliable source of oil for the next 30 years. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, ANWR contains between 5.6 and 16 billion barrels of oil. By contrast, neighboring Prudhoe Bay is currently pumping its 13 billionth barrel of oil and has been in operation for thirty years.

Hood called on the U.S. Senate to rely on real-life leaders when considering matters of energy independence and national security. "I join President Bush in calling on the Senate to pass a comprehensive national energy policy now," said Hood. "More than ever, we should listen to the Commander in Chief whose Oval Office is located in Washington, DC – not Hollywood."

Founded in 1903, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents more than 1.4 million hardworking men and women throughout the United States and Canada.