

An Open Letter to Andrew L. Stern President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

November 16, 2008

Dear President Stern,

As elected officials, community leaders, clergy, and trade unionists from across California, we have long been supporters of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and have the greatest respect for all we have accomplished together at the local, state and national levels. That is why we share your distress at the recent financial scandals that have arisen in SEIU and the damage these scandals may cause in achieving our common priorities.

We stand behind all of SEIU's members in California and believe that the democratic accountability of troubled local unions and the integrity of representation for all affected workers must be restored with all deliberate speed. We also strongly believe that the dispute between your leadership team and the members of SEIU United Healthcare Workers – West (UHW) is a separate matter that can and should be resolved through negotiation and compromise, without the imposition of a trusteeship.

In our experience, UHW has consistently acted with the highest integrity, placing the best interests of caregivers, consumers and communities at the center of its work, and placing top priority on efforts to organize workers who do not yet have the benefit of a union. Indeed, UHW is one of California's and the nation's leading advocates for workers' rights and quality, affordable healthcare, and is a major force in building a progressive majority committed to the pursuit of economic, social and environmental justice.

Now, we have learned that several months ago, after an intensive 48 hour process, a mediator proposed by SEIU and accepted by UHW offered recommendations for a peaceful path toward resolution of the dispute between UHW members and your leadership team – recommendations that UHW representatives accepted and your leadership team rejected.

At this critical moment, when we stand so much to gain by uniting to change the direction of our state and our nation, and so much to lose if we divide our forces against ourselves, **we ask that you accept the mediator's recommendations** and seek a peaceful resolution of your dispute with UHW rather than precipitate a crippling civil war inside SEIU, California's largest union.

We sincerely hope that this internal dispute can be resolved amicably and that no further action will be taken to weaken UHW's or SEIU's capacity to continue your important work on behalf of your members and all of us whom they serve.

In solidarity,

Dean Florez
California State Senator

Sheila Kuehl
California State Senator

Carole Migden
California State Senator

Pat Wiggins
California State Senator

Mark Leno
State Senator-elect*

Fiona Ma
Majority Whip, California State
Assembly

Mervin Dymally
California State
Assemblymember

Tom Ammiano
State Assemblymember-elect*

Mariko Yamada
State Assemblymember-elect*

Wilma Chan
Former State Assemblymember

Gayle McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Richmond

Bob Wasserman
Mayor, City of Fremont

Mike Gipson
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Carson

Harry Armstrong
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Clovis

Ginny Foat
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Palm
Springs

Ann Johnston
Mayor-elect*, City of Stockton

Phil Ting
San Francisco City and County
Assessor-Recorder

Aaron Peskin
President, San Francisco
County Board of Supervisors

Chris Daly
San Francisco County
Supervisor

Bevan Dufty
San Francisco County
Supervisor

Sophie Maxwell
San Francisco County
Supervisor

Jake McGoldrick
San Francisco County
Supervisor

Ross Mirkarimi
San Francisco County
Supervisor

Gerardo Sandoval
San Francisco County
Supervisor

John Avalos
San Francisco County
Supervisor-elect*

David Campos
San Francisco County
Supervisor-elect*

David Chiu
San Francisco County
Supervisor-elect*

Eric Mar
San Francisco County
Supervisor-elect*

Susan Bonilla
Contra Costa County Supervisor

John Gioia
Contra Costa County Supervisor

Federal Glover
Contra Costa County Supervisor

Alice Lai-Bitker
Alameda County Supervisor

Nathan Miley
Alameda County Supervisor

Susan Anderson
Fresno County Supervisor

Henry R. Perea
Fresno County Supervisor

Fernando Armenta
Monterey County Supervisor

Simon Salinas
Monterey County Supervisor

Anthony Farrington
Lake County Supervisor

Judy Arnold
Marin County Supervisor

Roger Dickinson
Sacramento County Supervisor

Carlos Villapudua
San Joaquin County
Supervisor-elect*

Mike Kerns
Sonoma County Supervisor

Jim Provenza
Yolo County Supervisor-elect*

Blong Xiong
President, Fresno City Council

Henry Perea
Fresno City Councilmember

Cynthia Sterling
Fresno City Councilmember

Les Kimber
Former Fresno City
Councilmember

Michael Gregory
San Leandro City
Councilmember

Jim Prola
San Leandro City
Councilmember

Joyce Starosciak
San Leandro City
Councilmember

Bill Harrison
Fremont City Councilmember

Bob Wieckowski
Fremont City Councilmember

Bill Quirk
Hayward City Councilmember

Kevin McCarty
Sacramento City
Councilmember

Rikke Van Johnson
San Bernardino City
Councilmember

Mark Sanchez
President, San Francisco Board
of Education

Richard Hober
President, San Mateo County
Community College Board of
Trustees

Tony Vang
President, Fresno Unified
School District

Cal Johnson
Fresno Unified School District
Trustee

Richard Hobbs
San Jose Evergreen
Community College Trustee

Milton Marks

City College of San Francisco
Trustee

Carole Rogers

Eden Township Healthcare
District Board Member

Rizalino Manuel

President, Philippine American
National Association

Alicia Parino

President, Philippine American
Senior Association

Don Bechler

Chair, California Universal
Healthcare Organizing Project

Max Clamor

Vice Chair, Filipino Veterans
Federation of California

Ben Boyce

Executive Director, Living Wage
Coalition

Frances Gracechild

Executive Director, Resources
for Independent Living

Jim Illig

President, San Francisco
Health Commission

Roma Guy

Former San Francisco Health
Commissioner

Michael Hardeman

San Francisco Port
Commissioner

Michael Goldstein

Vice Chair, San Francisco
Democratic County Central
Committee

Rafael Mandelman

2nd Vice Chair, San Francisco
Democratic County Central
Committee

Debra Walker

Treasurer, San Francisco
Democratic County Central
Committee

Michael Bornstein

San Francisco Democratic
County Central Committee
Member

Leslie Katz

San Francisco Democratic
County Central Committee
Member

Hene Kelly

San Francisco Democratic
County Central Committee
Member

Jane Morrison

San Francisco Democratic
County Central Committee
Member

Laura Spanjian

San Francisco Democratic
County Central Committee
Member

Scott Weiner

San Francisco Democratic
County Central Committee
Member

Elle Kurpiewski

President, Democrats of the
Desert

Beth Caskie

Vice President, Democrats of
the Desert

Rick Hauptman

President, San Francisco
Chapter, Progressive Democrats
of America

Luke Klipp

Past President, San Francisco
Young Democrats

Michael Allen

President, North Bay Central
Labor Council

Joe Coy

President, San Joaquin &
Calaveras Counties Central
Labor Council

Allan Fisher

President, American Federation
of Teachers, Local 2121

Salvador Lledo

President, Association of
Filipino Workers

Dale Moore

President, Amalgamated
Transit Union Local 1704

Gloria Resureccion

President, American Association
of Professionals

Camille Zombro

President, San Diego Education
Association

Bill Camp

Secretary Treasurer,
Sacramento Central Labor
Council

Conny Ford

Secretary-Treasurer, OPEIU
Local 3

Randy Ghan

Secretary-Treasurer, Fresno-
Madera-Kings-Tulare Central
Labor Council

Lavon Hamilton

Recording Financial Secretary,
Amalgamated Transit Union
Local 265

Walter Johnson

Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus,
San Francisco Labor Council

James Tobin

Secretary Treasurer,
Chauffeurs, Teamsters and
Helpers Local No. 150

Pam Aguilar

Executive Director, Contra
Costa Central Labor Council

Lisa Maldonado

Executive Director, North Bay
Central Labor Councils

Neil Struthers

CEO, Santa Clara/San Benito
Building and Construction
Trades Council

Vergie Flores

Board Member, Philippine
American Association of
Professionals

Fred Hirsch

Executive Board Member,
Plumber and Pipefitters - Local
393

Ferny Ventura

Board Member, Philippine
American Association of
Professionals

Benny Aranas

Pastor, Lord of Harvest

Bryan Jessup

Reverend, Unitarian
Universalist Church of Fresno

Melchor Abernoja

Assistant Pastor, Lord of
Harvest

Paterno Bisnar

Assistant Pastor, Lord of
Harvest

Laparasan Nilo Jaren

President, Filipino-American
Assembly of God

Poncho Guevara

Executive Director, Sacred
Heart Community Service

Father Patricio Guillen

Executive Director, Libreria Del
Pueblo

Richard Yanes

Executive Director, Fresno
Metro Ministry

Rey Fidelis

Associate Director, Assemblies
of God

Patricia L. McGinnis

Executive Director California
Advocates for Nursing Home
Reform (CANHR)

Rowena Aquino

President, Filipino Residents of
California - Los Angeles

Emily Bautista

President, Samahang Pilipino
at UCLA

Elvin Evangelista

President, Triax Corporation

Maria Ganon

Past President, Lions Club - Los
Angeles

Teodoro Lechadores

President, Visayan Association
of Los Angeles

Roselyn Castro

Interim Vice President,
Samahang Pilipino at UCLA

Julie Mabolo

Vice President, Seniors of
California - Los Angeles

Rosalinda Nery

Executive Vice President,
Amapola Association

Salvacion Jamorabon

Treasurer, Filipino American
Community of Los Angeles

Efren Masangkay

Treasurer, Circulo
Pampangueno of Southern
California Inc

Lourdes Osongco

Chair, Seniors of California -
Los Angeles

Jose Samonte

Chair, Filipino Veterans
Association - Long Beach

Jack Vergara

Chair, Society of Guerillas &
Scouts Inc

Barbara Blong

Executive Director, San
Francisco Senior Action
Network

Graham Brownstein

Executive Director,
Environmental Council of
Sacramento

Julian Davis

Executive Director, Tenderloin
Economic Development Project

Alegria de la Cruz

Directing Attorney, Fresno
- California Rural Legal
Assistance

Lillian Galedo

Executive Director, Filipinos for
Affirmative Action

N'Tanya Lee

Executive Director, Coleman
Advocates for Children and
Youth

Penny Newman

Executive Director, Center
for Community Action &
Environmental Justice

Eric Quezada

Executive Director, Dolores
Street Community Services

Shamus Roller

Executive Director, Sacramento
Housing Alliance

Aquilina Versoza

Executive Director, Pilipino
Workers Center

Steve Williams

Executive Director, People
Organized to Win Employment
Rights

Luther Jackson

CEO, Communication Workers
of America Local 39098

Ted Gullickson

Director, San Francisco Tenants
Union

Francisco Sola

Director, Riverside Latino Voter
Registration Project

Mei Ling Wang

Director, Employment Training
and Economic Development

Sarah He

Co-Director, San Francisco
Chapter, Chinese Progressive
Association

Christina Olagüe

Administrator, San Francisco
Senior Action Network

Kathy Lipscomb

Executive Board Member,
San Francisco Senior Action
Network

**Organizations listed for identification purposes only
Partial List**

*** Pending final certification of election results**