

September 18, 2019

Dear Labor Family on the MLK Labor Executive Board,

We are writing to you out of deep concern for the future of our labor movement and the unity of this Council.

We believe that for working people and the labor movement, the choice in Seattle City Council District 3 race could not be clearer.

Kshama Sawant has been one of the most consistent fighters for working people and our unions to serve on the City Council. We are proud to support Councilmember Sawant's re-election, along with the 15 unions and counting who have endorsed her campaign.

Against her is the candidate of the Chamber of Commerce, Egan Orion. We believe that an endorsement for Orion by this Labor Council would be a serious blow to labor unity at a time when the Chamber is making an all-out bid to control the City Council.

Orion's campaign coffers are flush with donations from a who's who of corporate America, including big developers, corporate lobbyists, 15 Amazon executives from around the country, and a long list of anti-union businesses who have fought against pro-labor policies in Seattle like the \$15/hour minimum wage.

Among those individuals who've maxed out to Orion are wealthy hotel chain owner Richard He-dreen, who has a long track record of union-busting. Then there's Craig Schafer, Executive board member of the Downtown Seattle Association who also gave a \$5,000 donation to the anti-worker arm of the local Hotel lobby, the so-called Seattle Hospitality for Progress PAC.

Tim Ceis and Ryan Bayne, central figures in Uber's efforts to stop unionization efforts by drivers as well as lobbying for a downtown Seattle "congestion tax," have also both maxed out to Orion.

Then there's the Corporate PAC money. Altogether, three corporate PACs have amassed more than \$1.6 million and counting, including half a million from a real estate lobby that wants to stop rent control at all costs. Last week, a new \$200,000 donation from Amazon has brought their total PAC contribution up to \$450,000. Many of Orion's individual donors have also given supersized contributions to the PACs, neatly skirting around individual limits thanks to Citizens United.

On top of this are a slew of maximum donations from wealthy Republicans, to both Orion's campaign and the PACs, including Trump and Ari Hoffman supporters.

We cannot support a candidate who is beholden to these backers, and we hope this Labor Council will not endorse him.

Unfortunately, this is not the only race in which corporate PACs are trying to buy our elections, propped up by unprecedented corporate funding for a Seattle City Council race.

In fact, they have launched an all-out bid to control the City Council. In the August primaries, a candidate backed by the Chamber of Commerce made it through to the general election in every single district.

The Chamber's PAC, CASE, has made union sister and socialist Councilmember Kshama Sawant their

main target. Despite that, Sawant came in 15 points ahead of her closest opponent in the primary election.

We feel it is unfortunate that in spite of Sawant's strong rank-and-file support, and backing by many Seattle union locals, some labor leaders supported one of her opponents. Yet while we understand there were differences in labor on the District 3 race in the primary, with some seeing Zachary De-Wolf as a progressive alternative, this general election is a fundamentally different race.

This Council simply cannot support an out-and-out corporate candidate like Egan Orion. Orion is the first choice of the corporate elite, and out of all 55 City Council candidates in the crowded Seattle primary, he was the #1 recipient of corporate PAC money.

As we all know, he who pays the piper calls the tune. The long experience our movement has had with corporate-backed candidates has shown their election-year promises to be hollow. Orion says he will listen to everyone, but his actions, were he to be elected, would be guided by his corporate sponsors, not by our unions.

Orion has said unequivocally he does not support rent control, an urgently-needed public policy to stem the hemorrhaging of our city's affordable housing. He's not campaigning for any tax on big business. He has no viable plan to address the affordable housing crisis.

Orion has also been remarkably dishonest about his PAC funding, with his campaign putting up posters saying "No Corporate PAC Money" after completely flip flopping on the issue. In fact, he applied to the Chamber's CASE PAC for their financial backing, interviewed for it, and said he was "proud" to receive their endorsement (while addressing a business audience).

This kind of dishonesty stands in sharp contrast to Kshama Sawant's highly principled approach to her council seat and complete rejection of all corporate cash.

We can't let big business buy this election. They want a Seattle exclusively for them: a corporate tax haven and playground for the rich, where they reside in waterfront mansions with manicured lawns, while workers and people of color continue to be gentrified out of the city.

A great deal is at stake. We need to build the fight for rent control and affordable housing, for a Green New Deal, and for taxing big business instead of working people. We need a proven fighter like Sawant who has shown time and again she will stand up for workers and not bow down before business interests, including their ongoing attacks on labor and efforts to privatize the public sector.

The MLK Labor Council and all unions should now stand together and endorse Kshama Sawant against this corporate onslaught.

Signed by,

1. David Parsons, President of UAW 4121, MLKCLC E Board member*
2. Paula Lukaszek, President of WFSE 1488, MLKCLC delegate*
3. Louis McGill, President of UAW 1981/ National Writers Union
4. Jeff Johnson, Former President of WA State Labor Council*
5. Service Employees International Union Local 1199NW
6. David Yao, Vice President of Greater Seattle American Postal Workers
7. Sam Sumpter, Vice President UAW 4121
8. Kathy Yasi, SEIU 925, Second Vice President
9. Michael Tamayo, SEA Vice President
10. Patricia Robertson, SEA Former Vice President

11. Peter Henry, SEA E Board member and President of the Seattle Substitute Association
12. Stan Strasner, SEA E Board member and VP for the Seattle Substitutes Association
13. Justin Vinson, SEA E Board member & MLKCLC Delegate*
14. Danielle Woods, SEA E Board member
15. Jennifer Hall, SEA E Board Member
16. Edmund Trangen, SEA WEA-PAC Manager
17. Misty Bright, WFSE 843 E Board Member & MLKCLC Delegate*
18. Jeff Treistman, SEA Building Rep for Denny MS
19. Michelle Vecchio, SEA Building Rep for Nova High School
20. Bruce Jackson, SEA Building Rep for Aki Kurose MS
21. Rob Rooke, Former delegate for MLKCLC, Carpenters and Lathers Local 1144*
22. Che Arsenault, Ironworkers Local 86, MLKCLC Delegate*
23. Mike Andrew, UAW 1981, MLKCLC E Board Member*
24. Kevin Allen, WFSE Local 843 and MLK Labor Delegate*
25. Charlie Wilson, Journeyman Ironworkers Local 86, former E Board Member*
26. Devin Davies, Millwrights Local 96, former Business Agent*
27. Rosa Powers, SEA, MLKCLC Delegate*
28. Shua Sanchez, UAW 4121 Sergeant at Arms, MLKCLC Delegate*
29. Elaine Carlson, OPEIU 8 E Board member and MLKCLC Delegate*
30. David Olivera, OPEIU 8 E Board member and MLK CLC Delegate*
31. Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity
32. Tricia Coley, IBEW 46*
33. Barbara Phinney, AFGE Local 3197*
34. Nicolas Laine, SEIU 775*
35. Evan Swan, IBEW 46*
36. Inbal Blitstein, SEIU 775*
37. Jules D'Amour, SEIU 775*
38. Robert Elkins, SEIU 775*
39. Richard Burton, AFT
40. Morgan VanFleet, WSNA*
41. Logan Swan, Journeyman Ironworkers Local 86*
42. Tammy Francis, UFCW 21*
43. Annelie Day, UFCW 21 Shop Steward*
44. Cecelia McBride, UFCW 21*
45. Amanda Caparoon, UFCW 21*
46. Ben Gallup, SEA
47. Matthew Maley, SEA
48. Jonathan Rosenblum, UAW 1981
49. Amzi Jeffs, UAW 4121 Shop Steward
50. Sean Butterfield, SEIU 775*
51. Lydia Wynn, SEA
52. Lauren Stark, SEA
53. Lisa Beaulaurier, SEIU 925 retired
54. Gil Veyna, AFGE 3197*
55. Mike Maloney, Laborers Local 1239*
56. Rosalinda Aguirre, OPEIU 8, OPEIU Diversity Committee Chair*
57. Valarie Peaphon, member OPEIU 8*
58. Roy Zuniga, IBEW 77*
59. Kevin Hopkins, Teamsters 117*
60. Paul Bigman, former MLKCLC Board Member
61. Bob Barnes, AFM 76-493*
62. Conner Lee, SEA
63. Tuomas Tajakka, UAW 4121 Shop Steward
64. Olivia Borghi, UAW 4121 Shop Steward
65. Michelle Farber, formerly UFCW 21
66. Darrin Hoop, SEA
67. Laura Lehni, SEA
68. Kathy Heffernan, SEIU 1199NW*
69. Thomas Dixon, SEA
70. Dave Westberg, former Business manager IUOE Local 609, retired*
71. Adam Croft, SEA
72. Forest Gauthier, WFSE 3488*
73. Lou Truskoff, Greater Seattle APWU and MLKCLC Delegate
74. Preston Sahabu, UAW 4121*
75. Pam Keeley, SEIU 1199 retired
76. Steve Leigh, SEIU 925,retired
77. Summer Jupin, SEA
78. Brian Black, SEA Building Rep for Franklin HS
79. Whitney Kahn, SEA
80. Kraig Schwartz, Former Citywide President of Adjunct Faculty & Membership Chair of AFT Local 1789*

81. Nick Sten, ILWU 19*
82. David Peeler, UAW 4121
83. Samantha Durfey, UAW 4121
84. Stacey Gerben, UAW 4121
85. Ralph Cacho, UAW 4121
86. Margaret Drouhard, UAW 4121
87. Marisa Bertaud, IBEW 46 Apprentice*
88. Leah Perlmutter, UAW 4121 shop steward
89. Don Creery, App-Based Drivers Association
90. Joshua Simpson, SEA
91. Timothy Mackie, UAW 4121 Shop Steward
92. Molly Whittaker, LIUNA 242
93. Ramy Khalil, SEA
94. Amanda Craig, PROTEC17
95. Dana Iorio, SEIU 1199 Retired
96. Jannike Johnsen, SEA, Building Rep for Denny IMS
97. Michelle Jacobsen, SEA, retired
98. Josh Harper, SEA
99. Olivia Geffner, SEA Building rep (alternate) for Franklin HS
100. Chuck McKeever, AFT 1789*
101. Omar Abdulalim, IAM District 751*
102. Savanna Jamerson, SEA
103. Aron Bodwitch, SEA
104. Philip Locker, SEA
105. Ronnie Rodriquez, SEIU 1199NW organizer,* SEIU 1199NW staff union member*
106. Matt Lawrence, SEA
107. Amy Hagopian, SEIU 925, UW Faculty Forward
108. Robby Stern, OPEIU Local 8, retired
109. Sergio Arceo, Interior Exterior Systems Local 41*
110. Olivia Lauifi, Ironworkers Local 86*
111. James Rushing Daniel, SEIU 925, UW Faculty Forward
112. Malcolm Olsen, IBEW Local 46*
113. Fred Lott, PROTEC17*
114. David Goldstein, SEIU 925, UW Faculty Forward
115. Mina Tari, UAW 4121 Shop Steward
116. Jesse Thomason, UAW 4121
117. Christine Geeng, UAW 4121
118. Shay Driscoll, SEIU 1199NW organizer, SEIU 1199NW Staff Union member*
119. Jesse Hagopian, SEA
120. Kyle Kubler, UAW 4121 executive board member
121. Martin Kellogg, UAW 4121
122. Salvadore Castillo, WFSE 1488*
123. Mike Mcbee, IUOE 609*
124. Jonathan Witt, UAW4121
125. Caitlin Lee, Art Workers Union
126. John Edens, Art Workers Union
127. Stephen Kelley, Art Workers Union
128. Kelsey Barnes, Art Workers Union
129. Sharon Crowley, UAW 4121
130. Michael Prault, Organizer at SEIU 6
131. Jeremy Prickett, Tool and Die Maker, former Executive Board Trustee, IAM Local Lodge 389*
132. Abraham Flaxman, SEIU 925, UW Faculty Forward*
133. Jake Simpson, UNITE HERE 8 & UUHS*
134. Jessica Pisane, UFCW 21*
135. Kristyn Joy, Highline College Education Association*
136. Benton Crane, IAM 751-A*
137. Edward Ciok, AFT 1789*
138. Kris Lysaker, AFT 1789*
139. Barry Westbrook, SEIU 925 Chapter President*
140. Tina Maestas, WSNA*
141. Michael Katell, UAW 4121*
142. Annaliza Torres, OPEIU 8*
143. Doreen McGrath, IBEW 77, retired*
144. Jacob O'Conner, UAW 4121 bargaining committee member*
145. Natalie Wellen, UAW 4121 shop steward*
146. Ryan Shafranek, UAW 4121 shop steward*
147. Aaron Flaster, UW Research Assistant, SEIU 925*
148. Linda Bruton WFSE Local 394*
149. Linda Averill, ATU Local 587*
150. Steve Hoffman, WFSE 304 Recording Secretary, MLKCLC delegate*
151. Brent McFarlane, IFPTE 2001 & MLKCLC Delegate*
152. Aleksandr Wray, SEA
153. Judy Twedt, UAW 4121 Trustee*
154. Denise Krownbell, PROTEC 17 Shop Steward*

155. Valentina Warner M.D., SEIU 1199NW Bargaining Team Member*
156. Angeline Zalben, SEA
157. Jon Greenberg, SEA Building Rep for the Center School
158. John Moore, Teamsters 763*
159. Robert McKay, SEA
160. Miguel Cambray, Unite HERE Local 8*
161. Ben Peterson, OPEIU Local 8 Shop Steward*
162. Julianna K. Dauble, REA/WEA*
163. Beverly Naidus, SEIU 925 UW Faculty Forward
164. Fred Hyde, RPEC, Chapter 3*
165. Muffy Sunde, Retired CWA*
166. Robin Narruhn, Pacific Island Health Board Member*
167. Steve Kofahl, AFGE District 11*
168. Dr. Cairo D'Almeida, President AFGE Local 1121*
169. Maureen Chomko, Neighborcare Bargaining Team SEIU 1199NW*
170. Thomas Walker, UAW 4121 Shop Steward*
171. Sarah Marris-Swann, SEIU 1199NW*
172. Davis Oldham, AFT 1950*
173. Abdi Shire, App-Based Drivers Association*
174. Peter Kuel, App-Based Drivers Association*
175. Adam Qai, App-Based Drivers Association*
176. Walter Ellis, App-Based Drivers Association*
177. Carrie Matthews, SEIU 925 UW Faculty Forward*
178. Des Conrads, AFGE Local 3197*
179. Terry Taylor, AFT 1950*
180. Michael Reagan, AFT 1789*
181. Philip Garrison, UAW 4121*
182. Roberta Lindeman, retired SEA
183. Annette Wadiyah E. Nelson, AFT 1789*
184. Elizabeth Hanson AFT 1950*
185. Caitlin Batson, Boilermakers Local 104*
186. Joe Thomas, Highline Education Association*
187. Bradley Horst, UAW 4121 Shop Steward*
188. Dalila Cruz, SEIU 1199*
189. John McClung, WFSE 1488*
190. Jean Fallow, AFT 1789*
191. Justin Adsuara, UNITE HERE! Local 8*
192. Tejas Devanur, UAW 4121*
193. Megan Murray, SEIU 1199NW*
194. Leith Jasinowski-Kahl, ILWU Local 19*
195. Patrick Darby, Kent Education Association*
196. Manuel Carillo, UNITE HERE! Local 8*
197. Nancy Eichner, AFT 1950*
198. Eric Dee, Member, UA Local 32*
199. Catherine Pottinger, SEIU Local 6*
200. Bruce Berkbigler, SEIU Local 6*
201. Ricardo Olivares WFSE 1488*
202. Paula Brown, SEIU 1199 NW, Bargaining Team Member*
203. Acquanda Stanford, UAW 4121*
204. Jean Fallow, AFT 1789*
205. Andrew Saturn, IWW IU 560*
206. Christine Bumpous, Teamsters 763*
207. Rebecca Ross, SEIU 1199NW*
208. Patricia Dawson, PROTEC 17*
209. Irene Morrison, Union Organizing Representative, AFT Washington*
210. Sarah Bright, SEIU 925 & PNWSU*
211. James Liner, SEIU 925 and PNWSW*
212. Diane Morrison, SEIU 925 UW Faculty Forward*
213. Carla De Leon Gonzalez, Interpreters United Local 1671*
214. Jorge Torres, IBEW Local 46*
215. Patrick Burns, Carpenters 30 & OWLS member*
216. Susan Zeman, SEIU 1199NW*
217. Caitlin DuBois, UNITE HERE, Lead Organizer*
218. Catrin Wendt, Shop Steward, UAW 4121*
219. Caleb Ogier, Shop Steward, UAW 4121*
220. Vern Harner, Bargaining Committee Member, UAW 4121*
221. Elizabeth Brasseale, UAW 4121 Shop Steward*
222. Kaitlyn Boulding, Shop Steward, UAW 4121*
223. Angeline McMillan-Major, Shop Steward, UAW 4121*
224. Jacob Roth, UAW 4121*
225. Madeleine Burkhart, UAW 4121*
226. Jasmine Burns, UAW 4121*

227. Mohammed Aria, App-Based Drivers Association*
228. Adama Dukuray, App-Based Drivers Association*
229. Ahmed Mumia, App-Based Drivers Association*
230. Mohamed Amasry Sharif, App-Based Drivers Association*
231. Mohamed Lata, App-Based Drivers Association*
232. Robert Gulbranson, App-Based Drivers Association*
233. Sukhchain Banwat, App-Based Drivers Association*
234. James O'Connor, Laborers 1239*
235. Sally Mitchell, Laborers 1239*
236. Lynn Brown, Laborers 1239*
237. Tenny Mallory-Canning, SEA
238. Daniel Guzman, SEA
239. Sara Emily Davis, SEA
240. CJ Walters, SEA
241. Laura Adriance, SEA
242. Jenny Nave, SEA
243. Mary Whisenhunt, SEA
244. Catey Mayhew, SEA
245. Colleen Farrell, SEA
246. Julia Calkins, SEA
247. Celina Martinez, SEA
248. Sarah Dean, SEA
249. Molly O'Neil, SEA
250. Joyce McDonald, SEA
251. David Posner, SEA
252. Maria-Elera Velasquez, SEA Representative
253. Sylvie Kovnat, SEA Representative
254. Christopher Veltri, SEA Representative
255. Natalie Tuck, SEA Representative
256. Craig Seasholes, SEA Representative
257. L. Sue Doty, SEA
258. Eddie Paltrineri, SEA
259. Nora Sipes, SEA
260. Reiko Myers, SEA
261. Kyle Robinson-Jaynes, SEA*
262. Audra Gallegos, SEA
263. Elizabeth Swarny, SEA
264. Rick Harlan, SEA
265. Phil Hines, SEA
266. Caritha Blair, SEA
267. Michael Perara, SEA
268. Jeff Morgen, SEA Building Rep for Ingham HS
269. Per Junkerman, SEA Representative
270. Stacy Shierholz, SEA Building Rep for Franklin HS
271. Maridith Dollente, SEA Representative for Paraprofessionals
272. Kate Eads, SEA Representative
273. Marguerite Jones, SEA Representative
274. Jody Rosenbalm, SEA
275. Vaughan Amare, SEA
276. Gwendolyn Jimerson, SEA
277. Jan Bowersox, SEA
278. Isabel D'Ambrosia, SEIU 1199*
279. Keelan Tidwell, SEIU 1199*
280. Yvonne Echavia, SEIU 1199*
281. Julie Trautman, SEIU 1199*
282. Rachel Erstad, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW*
283. Elizabeth Hopkins, SEIU 1199 NW Bargaining Team*
284. Wesley Sales, WFSE*
285. Bryan Watson, SEA
286. Tupamara Maestas Bocanegra, SEIU 1199NW*
287. Esperanza Borboa, former member American Federation of Teachers
288. Pete Borboa, Local 8, retired
289. Joan De Leon, Laborers 1239*
290. Jenny Slater, SEIU 1199NW*
291. Jessica Riddle, SEIU 1199NW*
292. Jared Harkness, SEA
293. Karen Podbela, SEA
294. Susan Watters, SEA
295. Colin Moen, IBEW 46*
296. Eunice How, UNITE HERE Local 8*
297. Joel Vancil, PROTEC17*
298. Jared Houston, UFCW 21*
299. Andrea Joseph, UAW 4121*
300. Ellen K. Yasuda-Barr, SEIU 1199NW*
301. Elena Pandres, UAW 4121*
302. Daniel Ediger, OPEIU 8*
303. Adam Kapilow, UAW 4121*
304. Joseph Bear, UAW 4121*

**Personal capacity only*