

SEIU Member Activists for Reform Today

www.reformseiu.org

February 18, 2009

SEIU Member Activists for Reform Today
PO Box 7775 #26205
San Francisco, California 94120-7775

Andrew Stern, president of the Service Employees International Union;
SEIU International Executive Board;
US President Barack Obama;
Designate for US Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.

Leaders of the Service Employees International Union, President Barack Obama, and Hilda L. Solis:

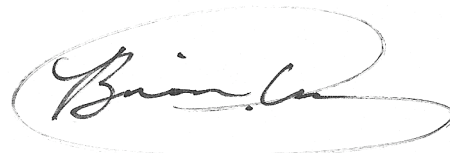
We are embarking upon an era of great change that has the potential to bring badly needed reform to working people. Labor will play a pivotal role in securing these reforms, and faced against those on Wall Street who would rather see us fail, we need unity now more than ever.

We the members of SEIU Member Activists for Reform Today (SMART) believe that the recent actions of the top leadership of our union to place a large California affiliate, the United Healthcare Workers West (UHW), under trusteeship betray the spirit of progressive change and undermine a real basis for unity that will be necessary to navigate what will be both turbulent and fruitful times.

When legislation such as the Employee Free Choice Act is on the table, we must take our responsibility to ensure its passage seriously, and that means upholding the notion of "free choice." Labor must not receive a black eye for committing such a grave error as this trusteeship, especially when the error is completely avoidable.

The attached letter was distributed by SMART but has been signed by many SEIU rank-and-file members from many different locals and supporters who simply opposed what was at the time still a threat of trusteeship against UHW by the SEIU International. The trusteeship having been carried out, their concerns stated in the letter are only more valid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Cruz", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

Brian Cruz, correspondence contact for
SEIU Member Activists for Reform Today (SMART)

Encl: SMART's open letter

SEIU Member Activists for Reform Today

The following is SMART's open letter opposing the trusteeship of UHW:

The economic collapse in California and nationally is the largest in our generation and a dangerous threat to our union, society, and lives. The need for a democratic labor movement is greater than ever.

This is why we will not accept any attempts to place the 160,000-member California-based local SEIU-UHW under trusteeship by SEIU's top leadership. UHW should not be punished for voicing the opinion that union democracy and rank-and-file member participation are essential to a strong labor movement.

We call on all SEIU members and locals throughout the country to call for a halt to this attempted take-over of a historic local—one which has led the way for SEIU members in California. UHW is a local that stands at the forefront of the struggle for union democracy, that maintains high contract standards for its workers, and that has been the fastest growing local within SEIU.

The destruction of UHW will be a severe detriment to SEIU. It will be used by anti-labor forces and management to attack the labor movement as a whole. It will be used to give unions a black eye by unscrupulous forces that would rather not see pro-labor legislation like the Employee Free Choice Act pass. This attempted trusteeship will only benefit labor's enemies.

In light of these reasons we call on all SEIU members to stand up and be counted in opposition to these tactics and call on SEIU and its president Andy Stern to draw back and accept democratic local control of SEIU-UHW.

Respectfully,

*Tarnel Abbott
SEIU Local 1021*

*Alysabeth Alexander
SEIU Local 1021*

*Gregory Anderson
SEIU Local 1021*

*Larry Bradshaw
SEIU Local 1021*

*Kymerlyn Carson-
Thrower
SEIU Local 1021*

*Brian Cruz
SEIU Local 1021*

*Michael S Donaldson
SEIU Local 1021*

*Nathaniel Holmes
SEIU Local 1021*

*Ed Kinchley
SEIU Local 1021*

*Barbara Lopez
SEIU Local 1021*

*Lynda McPhee
SEIU Local 1021*

*Jonathan Meade
SEIU Local 1021*

*Blesilda Ocampo
SEIU Local 1021*

*Sin Yee Poon
SEIU Local 1021*

*Linda Ray
SEIU Local 1021*

*Sandy Shartzter
SEIU Local 1021*

*Lorrie Beth Slonsky
SEIU Local 1021*

*Tania Swartz
SEIU Local 1021*

*Ramsés Teón-Nichols
SEIU Local 1021*

*Tracie Thomas
SEIU Local 1021*

*Renee Saucedo
SEIU Local 1021*

*Michael Tong
SEIU Local 1021*

*Kay Walker
SEIU Local 1021*

*Richard Brown
SEIU Local 1000*

*David E. Burkholder
SEIU Local 1000*

*Rick Frey
SEIU Local 1000*

*Kelli Harrison
SEIU Local 1000*

*Liz Kanter
SEIU Local 1000*

*Alex Hernandez
SEIU Local 1000*

*Donna M. Hobson
SEIU Local 1000*

*Liz Kanter
SEIU Local 1000*

*Cheryl Larson
SEIU Local 1000*

SEIU Member Activists for Reform Today

*Eileen McSorley
SEIU Local 1000*

*Laura Moreno
SEIU Local 1000*

*Ed Perez
SEIU Local 1000*

*Bobbi Smith
SEIU Local 1000*

*Donna Snodgrass
SEIU Local 1000*

*Lynn Vilain
SEIU Local 1000*

*C. T. Weber
SEIU Local 1000,
Retired*

*Joe Iosbaker
SEIU Local 73*

*Lucila Conde-Zambada
SEIU Local 2028*

*Kathryn Gargano
SEIU Local 221*

*Monty Kroopkin
SEIU Local 221/535*

*Diane Sabeghi
SEIU Local 221*

*Jennifer Bradley
SEIU Local 535*

*Ernest C Catura
SEIU Local 535*

*Clarence Dandridge
SEIU Local 535*

*Earl Gilman
SEIU Local 535*

*Otto Pimentel
SEIU Local 535*

*Ron Tanner
SEIU Local 721*

*Steve Leigh
SEIU Local 925*

*Helen Valentine
SEIU Local 925*

*B. Ross Ashley
SEIU Local 1, Canada*

*Patricia Bechtold
SEIU UHW*

*Mike Campbell
SEIU UHW*

*Kathleen Gilbert
SEIU UHW*

*Jody Gomes
SEIU UHW*

*Patricia Hardwick
SEIU UHW*

*Catherine Harris
SEIU UHW*

*Sean Haynes
SEIU UHW*

*Janet Johnson
SEIU UHW*

*Nicole Madrid
SEIU UHW*

*Sonia Minor
SEIU UHW*

*Paula Siskron
SEIU UHW*

*Audrey Willis
SEIU UHW*

*Aleli M. Cruz
SEIU UHW/535*

*Clarence Dandridge
SEIU UHW/535*

*Douglas Fejes
SEIU UHW/535*

*Stacey Parker
SEIU UHW/535*

*Veronica Quiris
SEIU UHW/535*

*Consuella Lewis
UHW-West, Optical*

*Justine M Stanis
UHW-West, Optical*

*Tom Burke
Former SEIU Local 73*

*Lee Sustar
UAW Local 1981*

*Barry Eidlin
UAW Local 2865*

*Albert Sargis
UAW Local 2324*

*Samantha Levens
ILWU/IBU San
Francisco*

*Brett Morris
IUOE 12*

*Nick Giannone III
Boilermakers Local 29*

*Vivian Price
Ca. Faculty Association*

*Thompson E. Potter, Jr.
AFSCME 3650*

*Micah Landau
Labor Journalist*