



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2015

SPACE NEEDLE WORKERS LAUNCH LABOR DAY PICKET

WORKERS CALL FOR "JOB SECURITY NOW!" AGAINST BUMBERSHOOT BACKDROP

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WHAT: Picket line and protest at the Space Needle

WHO: Space Needle workers, UNITE HERE Local 8, Local officials, Labor supporters, Community allies

WHEN: Monday, September 7 at 3:30pm.

WHERE: Base of the Seattle Space Needle, 400 Broad St.

WHY: This Labor Day, Space Needle workers are taking to the picket line to demand assurance from the private owners of the Symbol of Seattle that they'll still have their jobs come next September.

Originating as a holiday to celebrate the contributions of American workers, Labor Day is now one of the busiest travel weekends of the year, meaning hard work and long hours for hospitality workers and runaway profits for hospitality owners. In 2014, Seattle had the highest average hotel room rates of any city in the country over the Labor Day weekend.

Space Needle workers have organized and fought to make their jobs some of the best hospitality jobs in the city. However, these advances could all be lost if management decides to bring in subcontractors. Under existing conditions, an outside contractor could cut wages and benefits and refuse to rehire long-time workers.

Subcontracting is pervasive throughout the hospitality industry and workers in valet and food and beverage services are particularly vulnerable. As such, subcontracting protections have become a standard component of union contracts for hospitality workers in Seattle.

Space Needle owners are still refusing to grant workers these basic protections.

Four years of inaction on the part of Space Needle ownership has meant an increasingly disruptive labor dispute at the heart of Seattle's tourism center, with unfortunate repercussions for the hospitality industry and the city at large.

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UNITE HERE Local 8, the hospitality union of the Pacific Northwest, represents nearly 5,000 workers in hospitality and foodservice throughout Washington and Oregon, including SkyCity restaurant employees, banquet servers, elevator operators, greeters, and other workers at the Space Needle. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.unitehere8.org>