

December 4, 2019

Bob Pekenpaugh
General Manager
Edgewater Hotel
2411 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Mr. Peckenpaugh,

Seattle, King County and the State of Washington have long been proud leaders of advancing the rights of workers in our communities. From raising the minimum wage, to passing a statewide paid family leave program, to protecting hotel workers from injury and harassment, we have shown a deep and ongoing commitment to ensuring that workers are treated with dignity and respect in this region.

As a premier downtown hotel, and one located on publicly owned land, we expect the Edgewater to set a leading standard for employers in our city. This is especially important during a time when increasing housing costs are forcing more and more workers out of the city.

We support your workers as they seek to settle a contract with wages that more closely meet the increased cost of living in Seattle, secure year-round health care and provide assurances that they will keep their jobs in the event of a sale or transfer of the hotel to a new owner or operator. We believe that the workers, who are the backbone of your hotel's success, should share in your hotel's success and prosperity, as evidenced by your 70% increase in revenues since 2010.

We are dismayed that you have responded to your workers' contract campaign by hiring Modern Staffing & Security, a self-proclaimed nationwide "leader in strike staffing and security." We have received reports from workers at your hotel that guards have been stationed throughout the workplace and break areas in the hotel and that workers and union leaders have been followed and harassed by these guards.

Therefore, we, the undersigned elected officials and community leaders, urge you to remove the private security force from your hotel and return to the bargaining table immediately to negotiate a fair contract in line with other unionized employers in our community.

Best regards,

The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

The Rev. Sue Schneider, University Lutheran Church

The Rev. Diakonda Gurning, Bethel Lutheran Church

The Rev. Paul Benz and Elize DeGooyer, Faith Action Network

Marsha Botzer, Equal Rights Washington

Debbie Carlsen, Executive Director, LGBTQ Allyship
Marcos Martinez, Executive Director, Casa Latina
Mary Nguyen, Executive Director, Washington Community Action Network
Rich Stolz, Executive Director, OneAmerica
Puget Sound Sage
Frank Irigon, OCA-APA Advocates, GS Seattle Chapter*
Cindy Domingo, Board President, Legacy of Leadership and Organizing
Seattle City Councilmember-Elect Andrew Lewis
Seattle City Councilmember-Elect Dan Strauss
Seattle City Councilmember-Elect Tammy Morales
King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Wells
King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski
King County Councilmember Larry Gossett
King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove
King County Councilmember-Elect Girmay Zahilay
Washington State Senator Bob Hasegawa
Washington State Senator Mona Das
Washington State Senator Joe Nguyen
Washington State Representative Jake Fey

**for identification purposes only*