



Richard Hedreen
R.C. Hedreen Company
217 Pine Street Ste. 100
Seattle, WA 98101

April 1, 2014

Dear Mr. Hedreen,

I am writing in support of the workers of your two hotels, the Grand Hyatt Seattle and the Hyatt at Olive 8, in their request for the fair process to decide whether to choose a union that is outlined in the agreement between UNITE HERE and the Hyatt Corporation. New Beginnings has held fundraising events in past years at your hotels, and each year we hold spring and fall benefits which raise thousands of dollars in support of our mission. Going forward, I would like you to know that we will not use either of these hotels until your employees have access to that fair process. We will encourage our partner organizations and other members of the progressive community to avoid these hotels as well.

New Beginnings empowers survivors and mobilizes community awareness and action to end domestic violence. All too often, women are trapped in cycles of violence in the home because they cannot find safe and secure employment that allows them to provide for themselves.

As we saw several years ago in the Dominique Strauss-Kahn incident, the women cleaning hotel rooms can be in a precarious position—especially if they do not have the proper tools to work safely, or if they have to worry about job security. For women and mothers struggling to make their way out of an abusive relationship, losing a job or going from full time to temporary work can undermine their crucial foundation of self-support that could become a path to safety. The hospitality industry can be a great source of prosperity and pride for working women, or it can be another source of pain and silence.

UNITE HERE and the Hyatt Corporation have already reached an agreement that meets Hyatt's needs as a business, and the workers' rights to dignity and self-determination. As our hospitality industry grows here in Seattle, you have the power to set a vital precedent—that women's voices are valued in the workplace, and that businesses and working families alike will be lifted up by the expansion of tourism.

Please create space for your employees to have a voice on the job, and move forward with the election process outlined in the agreement between UNITE HERE and the Hyatt Corporation.

Sincerely,

Susan Segall
Executive Director