



July 22, 2009

Rick Bender, President  
Washington State Labor Council  
314 First Avenue West  
Seattle, WA 98119

Dear Rick:

The labor movement in Washington State has worked hard – and generally successfully – to avoid bringing national intra-labor problems home to our state. While the SEIU unions are not affiliated with the Washington State Labor Council we have always been able to sit together at the same tables to work together on elections, legislation, and other issues.

As you know, we're now engaged in important conversations about changing the way we do politics to increase our ability to hold elected officials accountable to working families. These conversations will only succeed if labor and other allies maintain our unity.

We are writing to express serious concern that a recent action by the State Labor Council will undermine our ability to work together and maintain unity. The WSLC has invited Sal Roselli – a disgraced former SEIU local union leader from California – to its convention – an action that can only be viewed as a direct and hostile attack on SEIU. This is an unnecessary and divisive invitation and we strongly urge you to retract the invitation in the interest of preserving unity among labor allies in Washington State.

Here are some facts about Sal Roselli:

- Sal Roselli is the former President of SEIU – United Healthcare Workers West. He was ousted and the local union was placed in trusteeship for, among other things, improperly diverting \$3 million in members' dues money to a bogus non-profit organization, moving \$500,000 of members' money into an outside attorney's account, and violating democratic union procedures designed to protect members. Former U.S. Labor Secretary Ray Marshall recommended the

trusteeship after four days of independent hearings. Roselli never challenged the legality of the trusteeship. Attached is the report from the trustee hearings.

- Documents have recently come to light that show Roselli, his top lieutenants, and legal counsel conspiring to illegally divert union resources. In a memo from Feb. 8, 2008 while Roselli and the others were still officers in SEIU UHW, the union's attorney, Arthur Fox, advised that using the bogus non-profit to move money off the SEIU UHW books for their political use was illegal. But, Fox advised, if they "played dumb" they might well be able to get away with it, and if the IRS discovered the activity, they could just say, "Whoops, Sorry, We Screwed Up." The former UHW leaders took Fox's advice, and vehemently denied any wrongdoing when the bogus fund came to light.
- The federal district court in CA has ruled that after being ousted as President, Roselli "embarked on a vigorous resistance strategy, including a plan to disrupt union operations so as to make the situation ungovernable." "Forming a new union after the fact, of course, was lawful," U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup states in the ruling. "What was not lawful, however, was filching or sabotaging the UHW property and information or aiding and abetting others in doing so."
- Roselli deliberately cancelled contract extensions leaving thousands of workers vulnerable, and destroyed grievance records making it nearly impossible to protect workers' rights on the job.

It is also worth noting that Roselli's new "union" is not affiliated with either the California Labor Federation or the AFL-CIO, and currently has no actual members.

But perhaps even more important than the embarrassment that will be caused by inviting a disgraced former union leader who stole millions of dollars from his members, is the divisiveness that this invitation will cause.

SEIU members in Washington State – many of whom have talked directly with members who were negatively impacted by Sal Roselli's poor leadership in California, are outraged by this invitation and will not allow Roselli to come speak to union members here without making sure that they know the full story.

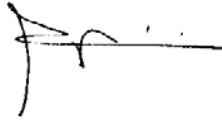
Since Roselli has nothing to add to any conversation about organizing or politics in Washington State, there is no possible motivation for this invitation other than as a direct and hostile attack on SEIU.

We have a lot of work to do in the months and years ahead – to hold politicians accountable to working families, advance a progressive agenda in the legislature, and win


economic and social justice for all Washingtonians. Let's avoid unnecessary and divisive actions that get in the way of this work.

We strongly urge you to withdraw your invitation of Sal Roselli so we can continue to work together to solve the problems facing working families in Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sergio Salinas". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sergio Salinas, President  
SEIU Local 6

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rolf". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "D".

David Rolf, President  
SEIU Healthcare 775NW

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Cook". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "K".

Kim Cook, President  
SEIU Local 925

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George K Dockins". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "G".

George Dockins, President  
SEIU Local 1948/PSE