



LIUNA!

May 16, 2016

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Richard Trumka, President
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Dear Rich:

On behalf of the General Executive Board and the 500,000 strong, proud, and united men and women of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I write to express our anger and frustration regarding the AFL-CIO's plan to establish a Super PAC with billionaire job-killer and environmental extremist Tom Steyer. This Super PAC creates a significant conflict between the interests of hard-working union members and the interests of those running the Super PAC.

In previous elections, the AFL-CIO has backed candidates entirely and exclusively based on whether they were good for the working men and women whose dues support the AFL-CIO. But years of financial distress have left the AFL-CIO desperate for cash, and it appears that the answer is to sell out to a billionaire who not only has little or no stake in our movement, our members, or their work; but who has actively fought against our members' interests.

The AFL-CIO has traded significant control of its political agenda in return for a pittance, and wants affiliated unions to climb aboard. Your recruitment of so few international unions to join you should be an indication of the sheer folly of this alliance. With your blessing and support, Tom Steyer has purchased the backing, prestige, and control of the AFL-CIO, and will now use it to advance his own agenda, promote his own views, and further his own political ambitions.

This scheme is the logical outcome of an obsession with, and a desire to throw open the doors of labor to, outside organizations that are completely out of touch with the needs and concerns of ordinary, blue-collar working Americans.

Given the amount of money Tom Steyer is rumored to have committed to this new Super PAC, and the reported appointment of one of his chief lieutenants, Paul Tewes, to run it, it's clear that he and his anti-energy, anti-job, anti-growth cronies will be dictating how funds flowing from union coffers are spent. This is as unacceptable, as offensive, and as absurd as forming a Super PAC with proponents of so-called "Right to Work" legislation.

Feel the Power

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Tom Steyer and his allies oppose an all-of-above energy policy that not only creates good union jobs, but offers to keep the lights on and meet our nation's energy needs even as we transition to a cleaner, more sustainable future. His vision of leaving oil, natural gas, and other fossil fuels in the ground kills jobs, drives up energy costs, and threatens to strangle our economy. As a hedge-fund billionaire, he may not feel the pain of such self-righteous, patronizing, unrealistic, and damaging policies, but our members, and all American families, do. "Leave it in the Ground" is not a viable energy policy; it's political bullshit.

We've seen this before; we watched unions that had no job equity in the Keystone XL Pipeline join with Steyer and other environmental extremists to campaign against it. As a direct result of those efforts, LIUNA members who would have built that pipeline are currently unemployed. Our members are sick and tired of watching some of our so-called brothers and sisters mobilize against projects that would put Laborers to work. When I grew up in the Labor Movement, I learned to look for the union label, to honor picket lines, and to never stand between another union member and a job in which I had no equity stake. If we couldn't openly support another union's efforts, we at least kept quiet and did no harm.

I have heard many other labor leaders say that if we want progressive organizations to be there for us on our issues, we need to be there for them on their issues. LIUNA strongly believes in the value of building coalitions to achieve common goals. We will work with anyone we can, and fight everyone we must to pursue, protect, and defend the interests of our members. Many progressive groups are strong supporters of prevailing wages, collective bargaining, workers' rights, higher wages, and many other issues of prime concern to the labor movement. At LIUNA, we're happy to support these allies on issues of importance to them, even on issues that may not be directly related to our immediate concerns. But we're not about to hold hands, sing *Kumbaya*, and support positions that threaten the jobs, livelihoods, and economic health of our dues-paying members, or of our brothers and sisters in the AFL-CIO. Our primary responsibility as union leaders is to our members, and any individual or any organization that has a problem with that is no friend of the labor movement.

There is a clear line between working together to support specific legislation and regulations, and forming a Super PAC together to support a broader political agenda. The former is good strategy; the latter is a politically bankrupt betrayal of the union members who elected us to represent their work place interests first, last, and always. This Super PAC wouldn't just cross that line; it would obliterate it.

We share the AFL-CIO's desire to push a pro-worker agenda in this year's Presidential race, but are appalled by its decision to pool union funds with job-killing environmental extremists to do so. LIUNA is proud to be one of Hillary Clinton's strongest supporters, all without taking a dime from anyone outside our union, least of all someone who regularly stands between our

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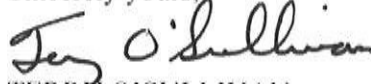
members and good, middle-class jobs. Those naive enough to believe that outside funding does not translate into outside influence and a *quid pro quo* have their heads in the sand.

Last year, LIUNA sent more than \$2.3 million of our members' hard-earned dues to the AFL-CIO in per capita taxes. Yet now, the Federation chooses to ally itself with organizations and individuals who are taking food off our members' tables, and interfering with their ability to provide for themselves and their families.

Enough is enough! The formation of this ill-advised and poorly conceived Super PAC is an insult, injury, and injustice to the strong, proud, and united members of LIUNA. When it comes to answering that age-old union question, which side are you on, those who support this abominable Super PAC certainly do not stand on the side of the hard-working members of LIUNA.

We object to the political agenda of the AFL-CIO being sold to a job-killing hedge fund manager with a bag of cash.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

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