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Unity – Justice – Democracy

February 26, 2008

Richard Hughes, International President
International Longshormen's Association
17 Battery Place, Suite 930
New York, New York 10004

Re: An Open Letter to The ILA President

Dear President Hughes,

Congratulations on becoming the International President of our great Union. We look forward to the years ahead and we are hopeful that your long tenure in our Union will help you guide the ILA through the current challenges we face. We also hope that you will share with the rank and file the ILA's plans to secure a better future.

We write to you as concerned members, as delegates to the past International Convention, and as Co-Chairs of the Longshore Workers' Coalition.

Our union faces a growing crisis: a workforce divided by tiers, the growth of new technology and non-union work, and increasingly unsafe conditions. ***The ILA must not wait to organize a response.***

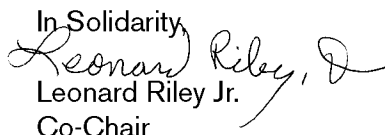
LWC members, as well ILA members who are not part of our Coalition, supported, signed and submitted resolutions to deal with this crisis. Many of those resolutions passed last year's 52nd Quadrennial Convention. Specifically, the resolutions to end the wage and royalty tiers, to rewrite and renegotiate safety regulations and to evaluate the creation of an organizing program. President Emeritus Bowers even made ending the tiers part of his keynote address.

It has been more than seven months and the rank and file has not read or heard a thing about the ILA's plans to implement these resolutions. While the ILA magazine took great pains to discuss the delegates rejection of "1 member – 1 vote," it made little to no mention of the unanimous resolutions to end the wage and royalty caps, establish new safety standards, or organize the growing non-union / non-ILA work.

We request a written response to this letter that we can share with the rank and file outlining the ILA's plans to follow through on the resolutions and the will of the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. Specifically how the ILA plans to educate and mobilize our membership for upcoming master contract negotiations. No early settlement or extension should be signed without the ratification of the ILA membership and without fully securing an end to the tiers, improved safety and improved organizing language. This contract should contain no concessions.

The LWC plans to support the effort to win a good contract and win a decent life for ILA members. For the sake of the membership and the Union we feel we must begin now. We have enclosed a copy of our latest research and education tool called "The Cargo Chain." We designed it to help our members understand the industry we work in and help our members use their power to win a good contract.

In Solidarity


Leonard Riley Jr.
Co-Chair


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Cc: ILA Executive Board, ILA Membership
Enclosures