As the Dispatcher goes to press in mid-October, teams of ILWU members are being dispatched to work in six states where pro-union candidates are fighting to win seats in the U.S. Senate – and stop anti-union Presidential Candidate Donald Trump from reaching the White House.

In early September, International President Robert McEllrath notified local unions and pensioners that the ILWU Titled Officers had developed a “Battleground States Campaign Plan.”

“The officers would like to send a team of two ILWU members plus one pensioner to six states where a pro-union candidate needs our help,” McEllrath explained, adding that the teams will work hard during the final two weeks of the election. “The goal,” he said, “is to elect enough pro-union members in six states where a pro-union candidate needs our help.”

Pro-union voters: ILWU members at worksites all along the west coast are reviewing pro-union candidates and issues for the November 8 election. Recommendations from ILWU District Councils are available at local union offices and can be found online at www.ilwu.org in the October Dispatcher (L-R): Local 10’s Nelson Ayala and Melvin Mackay with Local 75 member Dave Terry at the Port of Oakland.

Local 500 celebrates 50 years of Solidarity page 3

Pro-union candidates

A

ILWU helps pro-union candidates

family members was recently caught sending racist insults about Latinos. In a desperate move, Heck dropped his longstanding support for Donald Trump on October 8.

Pennsylvania

Local 5’s Dane Fredericks is heading the ILWU’s Pennsylvania team with Gary Bucknum of the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) Columbia River Region and Local 19 member Alexandra Vekich. They will be working to support U.S. Senate candidate Katie McGinty, who is pro-union and hopes to become the state’s first female U.S. Senator. She’s running against first-term, anti-union, incumbent Pat Toomey who backs “free trade” agreements for big business and opposes union rights. The team will focus on suburban “swing” voters surrounding Philadelphia who are expected to determine the election’s outcome. Recent polls show McGinty and Toomey were in a virtual tie, with Toomey wafting on whether he supports Donald Trump.

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This article is from The Dispatcher, Vol 74, No 10, November 2016. Published by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Why we can’t vote for Trump.

You may have heard that I don’t have much patience for politicians, especially ones who want our help when they’re desperate for votes or contributions – then ignore us when we need their support.

I liked Bernie Sanders because he was different in all the right ways. He says the right things and votes the right way when it comes to unions and the working class. He doesn’t flip-flop or wait for polls before taking a stand. When his campaign ended last summer, Sanders got 13 million Americans to stand with him, which impressed the hell out of me – and made me hopeful about our future – especially because so many young people supported him.

But now we have a different choice, and it isn’t pretty. Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have got problems. I was never a fan of Bill Clinton. The way he pushed NAFTA and “free trade” was enough for me. His deals with Wall Street made it clear he didn’t care for the working class. They like that he’s confident and talks tough. But none of that matters compared to one fact: Donald Trump is anti-union. I mean real anti-union. Not just a waffler like Hillary Clinton who might say something nice to union members one day and something nice to business leaders the next.

Donald Trump isn’t the solution to America’s problems, he is the problem! Just look at what’s happening right now to workers at the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas. Management there has been waging a nasty, anti-union campaign against workers for almost two years. They hired anti-union consultants who were paid more than half a million dollars to gut the working class. They suspended, threatened and interrogated union supporters. Despite all that and more, workers still voted to join the hotel workers union in Las Vegas where 57,000 are already members with good pay, benefits and job security.

The story gets worse, because workers at the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas voted to join the union back in December of 2015 and the company is still refusing to negotiate a fair contract. After picketing that hotel for months, those workers finally decided to launch a boycott of all Trump hotels, golf courses and other businesses.

I think the workers at the Trump Hotel Las Vegas deserve our support. And I think we should take it a step further by boycotting Trump in the election. As far as I’m concerned, voting for him when workers at the Trump Hotel are walking the picket line is no different than crossing their picket line. Over a year ago he suggested to the auto industry in Michigan to move their operation to states with lower wages. Sounds anti-union to me! We, the ILWU, are better than that. And we, the ILWU, deserve better than that.

Starting in October, teams of ILWU members will fan out across the country to contact union members and other voters in six states where we’re supporting pro-union candidates. One of the places we’re going is Las Vegas – and our team will be joining that picket line with workers from the Trump Hotel Las Vegas.

I’ll be voting too, and this year it will be for Hillary Clinton. Not because she’s a progressive leader – she isn’t. I’m voting for her because we have to stop Donald Trump and the anti-union movement from getting any stronger. And because those hotel workers in Las Vegas are out on a picket line. And because I don’t cross picket lines, don’t scab, and will never vote for an anti-union candidate. I hope you’ll consider doing the same.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

In solidarity,
Robert McEllrath
International President

An injury to one is an injury to all.

In solidarity,
Robert McEllrath
International President

Workers call for Trump boycott: Hotel workers at the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas recently called for a boycott of all Trump operations. The luxury hotel in Las Vegas ran an aggressive anti-union campaign against workers. After employees ignored company threats and voted for the union, the hotel has refused to negotiate a fair contract.
ILWU International President Bob McEllrath led a large delegation of ILWU leaders who attended the 7th General Assembly of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) in Miami, Florida on September 26-29.

The semi-annual meeting brought together dockers from a dozen countries. The ILWU delegation included 17 representatives, consisting of International President McEllrath, Vice Presidents Ray Familath and Wesley Furtado, Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cameron Williams, and a dozen elected leaders from the major Longshore locals.

The other part of the U.S. delegation was composed of leaders from the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) who sent a delegation representing dockworkers employed at ports in the Great Lakes and East Coast.

“Our goal was to bring a representative group of leaders who were interested in sharing our experiences and learning from what other unions are doing around the world,” said McEllrath. “Among the topics discussed were:

• Automation and new technology.
• The privatization of public docks.
• Health and safety issues facing dockworkers.
• Expansion efforts by non-union or substandard operators.

An entire day was devoted to the topic of automation. Academic experts and industry officials made presentations about the latest research and experience with new technology – along with comments and contributions from dockers at the Assembly.

The ILWU delegation brought a new documentary video prepared especially for the General Assembly to explain the new robotic technology being used at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The ten minute video produced for the Coast Longshore Division by filmmaker Nate Sachrow, includes interviews of ILWU officials and explanations about how the new technology operates and impacts workers. The film notes that the automation projects in Southern California were heavily subsidized with public dollars and are displacing hundreds of good-paying union jobs.

The video helped spark conversations and comparisons with other unions about their experiences with automation, including dockworkers from the Netherlands and Australia. Experts noted that a final accounting of the costs and benefits of port automation has yet to be made – and that the costs of massive investments, frequently subsidized with public funds, and declining tax revenues from substandard operators for robots – has yet to be accounted for.

“The IDC and International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) are important international bodies,” said President McEllrath. “We always learn things at these meetings, and this one was particularly useful because we were able to share our experiences with automation and new technology.”

Local 500 celebrates fifty years of solidarity

Local 500 organized a celebration in late September to honor the 1966 coming-together known as “amalgamation” that brought many smaller locals into one, big united Local 500 that now represents 1318 union members and 1422 casuals in Vancouver, B.C.

Local 500’s Education Chair Steven Ross envisioned the 50-year anniversary as a week-long educational opportunity for union members, pensioners and the community. That dream was realized by dozens of volunteers who created museum-quality exhibits.

“What Local 500 members did to create their own exhibition was awesome and inspiring,” said ILWU Librarian and Archivist Robin Walker in San Francisco.

The Local 500 exhibit was so extensive that it required a large hall at Vancouver’s Maritime Labour Centre. One exhibit featured a large-scale model of a ship’s bow. Other exhibits displayed the wide variety of cargoes handled by longshore workers over the years, including wine barrels, wheat and other grains, lumber, sand and gravel. Smaller scale-model ships from every era included sailing vessels to modern container carriers. A large collection of longshore hooks used by old-timers were a popular feature. Documents, videos and photos helped explain the history of longshore unions in Vancouver and the growing influence of solidarity that brought Locals 501, 506, 507, 509 and 510 together.

An especially emotional exhibit displays the names of 50 longshore workers who have been killed on the job. Admission to the exhibition was free and the hall was open long hours to accommodate the public.

“It’s important to remind ourselves of this history, and just as important to try and reach the public who is fenced off from our docks and can’t see the work that we do,” said Ross.

The week-long exhibition was downsized on the final day to make room for a dinner and dance that was

International celebration:

Leaders from ILWU Canada and the States attended the 50th anniversary of Local 500’s amalgamation of longshore locals in Vancouver. Among these attending were (L-R): ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 514 President Frank Scigliano, Local 13 Business Agent Larry Manzo, Local 500 Vice President Antonio Pantusa, Local 13 President Bobby Olivera, Jr., and Local 500 President Rino Voci.

International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams brought greetings from throughout the ILWU family to Local 500 President Rino Voci, ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams brought greetings from throughout the ILWU family to Local 500 President Rino Voci, ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, and Local 500 members and pensioners.

“We are all tied together in a garment of destiny. Our hands are joined across oceans and borders, and our pulses and heart beats throb as one,” said Adams.

from out of town to celebrate our 50 years. I would also like to thank Steve Ross, his service committee, and all the volunteers for their hard work to make this event happen.”

The whole event was a great success. Many of the pensioners came and enjoyed all the exhibitions. Members and casuals showed up to see the history of our local and to learn how previous generations struggled for the benefit of our current workforce. The dinner was sold out and a great time was had by all. I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters that came
New film promotes “Medicare for all”

Businessman backs “Medicare for All”

A panel discussion followed the screening that included the film’s surprising producer – businessman Richard Master who owns a $200 million framing company, and has become a passionate supporter of affordable, single-payer system, such as “Medicare for All.” Master says he was increasingly frustrated at the constant rising cost of health care insurance, but had an epiphany after making a trip outside the U.S. where there were better health care systems with more affordable services and much cheaper drug prices. He decided to fund the film in order to share what he’s learned with the public – and urge business leaders here to reconsider their support for the status quo’s excessive costs and quality problems. He says many Canadian business owners can’t understand how their counterparts in the U.S. are still backing a system that burns both businesses and workers. His film makes a convincing case for U.S. business to reconsider that position.

Experts and activists

Joining Richard Master on the panel were Dr. David McLanahan, Surgeon Emeritus of Pacific Medical Centers and Dr. Stephen Bezruckha of the University of Washington’s School of Health. The event was MC’d by Michael McCann, Director of the Harry Bridges Labor Center.

Supporting Medicare for All: Among those attending the viewing were (L-R): Dan McKisson of ILWU Local 19; ILWU Pensioner Richard Austin; businessman and CEO Richard Master of MCS Industries; Local 19 member Justin Hirsch; Inlandboatmen’s Union Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast; and Local 19 member Dan Davies. To arrange a showing of the film at your local or community center, go to www.fixithealthcare.com

The Puget Sound District Council (PSDC) spearheaded the evening at the urging of IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast, who also serves as PSDC Vice President. Additional help was provided by staff at the Harry Bridges Center along with Jimi Limric from Local 9 who also contributed time and effort.

Private insurance and profit

Local 19’s Dan McKisson, who helped organize the event, said, “reformimg America’s current system – like Obama tried to do – is doomed to fail because of the private, profit-making insurance system.” He says the film points out that our current system is much more expensive and delivers lower-quality care than successful single-payer systems operating in other leading nations. McKisson praised the film for explaining how business owners and workers share a common interest in replacing the current system that puts such a heavy burden on employers, unions and remains a leading cause a personal bankruptcy for workers.

ILWU helps pro-union candidates

continued from page 1

Ohio

The ILWU’s Ohio team is being led by Washington staffer Bianca Bloemquist who’s working with Local 13’s Christine Aguirre. The duo hopes to help former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold re-take his former seat from anti-union incumbent Ron Johnson. The two are nearly tied in a close race that may be determined by voters living in the Milwaukee suburbs, where Aguirre and Bloemquist expect to invest some of their time. Feingold is a strong union supporter who lost his seat in 2010 to Johnson – a wealthy business owner and Tea Party favorite. Other anti-union politicians, including Governor Scott Walker, also gained ground in 2010, passing laws that stripped public employees of most union rights. ILWU members from Locals 10, 13, 20, 63 and 94 attended mass protests and a sit-in at the State Capitol building. Walker’s Presidential bid fizzled quickly five years later, but scapegoating unions for job losses caused by capital flight remains a staple of Wisconsen politics.

Wisconsin

The ILWU’s Wisconsin team is being led by Washington staffer Bianca Bloemquist who’s working with Local 13’s Christine Aguirre. The duo hopes to help former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold re-take his former seat from anti-union incumbent Ron Johnson. The two are nearly tied in a close race that may be determined by voters living in the Milwaukee suburbs, where Aguirre and Bloemquist expect to invest some of their time. Feingold is a strong union supporter who lost his seat in 2010 to Johnson – a wealthy business owner and Tea Party favorite. Other anti-union politicians, including Governor Scott Walker, also gained ground in 2010, passing laws that stripped public employees of most union rights. ILWU members from Locals 10, 13, 20, 63 and 94 attended mass protests and a sit-in at the State Capitol building. Walker’s Presidential bid fizzled quickly five years later, but scapegoating unions for job losses caused by capital flight remains a staple of Wisconsin politics.

Florida

Local 19’s Todd Weeles is leading the Florida team with Walter Smith and James Jackson, Jr., both from the Alaska Longshore Division. The trio arrived in Miami where many believe the region could determine the State’s hotly-contested U.S. Senate and Presidential races. Former Presidential candidate Marco Rubio broke an earlier promise by deciding to retain the Senate seat he previously renounced. Rubio has steadfastly maintained his anti-union stances and recently flip-flopped to endorse Donald Trump after both spent months hurling insults at each other. Rubio is now attacking the ILWU-supported candidate for U.S Senate: Patrick Murphy, a former Republican who switched parties in 2012 to become a moderate/conservative Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Missouri

Local 8’s Brent Bissett is leading the ILWU team in Missouri with Local 5’s Ron Solomon and Local 10’s Melvyn Mackay. They’re helping U.S. Senate candidate Jason Kandor who is trying to unseat anti-union incumbent Roy Blunt. Kandor is a former Afghan-istan veteran; Senator Blunt is a Trump supporter who avoided the draft and military service by getting three deferments. The Senate race here is one of the closest in the country. The ILWU team expects to be working around the St. Louis area, but will travel wherever they can contact voters. Blunt’s family is filled with lobbyists who have taken advantage of the Senator’s position in Washington, his wife is a lobbyist, along with his children Matt, Andy, and Amy who are also registered lobbyists. The Senator has also been criticized for living in a $1.6 million mansion in Washington that costs about 15 times more than an average home in St. Louis or Kansas City.
Las votaciones con ayuda de ILWU

Más de trescientos trabajadores de Sakuma Brothers Farm en el noroeste del estado de Washington hicieron historia el 12 de septiembre por la tarde al votar abrumadoramente a favor de la creación de su propio sindicato independiente para campesinos. La organización en los campos Los 377 trabajadores que recogen moras una hora al norte de Seattle en el fértil valle de Skagit han contado con el apoyo de la ILWU y otros sindicatos desde 2013, pero aún tuvieron que superar una amarga campaña antisin- dicato. Los productores de Sakuma, que habían estado desesperados y amenazados. Los trabajadores de Sakuma triunfaron en sus votaciones porque cultivaron la solidaridad en los campos - y pidi- ron el apoyo de los sindicatos y los consumidores para boicotear Driscoll’s Berries - la marca comercial del gran distribuidor de moras producidas por Sakuma y otros productores que ya no se está boicotear.

Los años difíciles

Los miembros de ILWU fueron de los primeros en ayudar a los tra- bajadores de Sakuma cuando empe- zarón a organizar en el verano de 2013, bajo el lema "Familias Unidas por la Justicia." Los administradores de Sakuma rápidamente tomaron repres- salias, despidiendo a los dirigentes, nombrándose de las quejas de los traba- jadores diciendo que no había nada que negociar, e importando "traba- jaedores" para que sirvieran de esquiroles a sueldo de la compañía. Ellos también atacaron a los periodistas que entrevistaron a los trabajadores, ya que estos describían las duras condiciones de trabajo en Sakuma. Los Jubilados de ILWU y miembros del local visitaron a los tra- bajadores y dirigentes de FUJ en 2013, sentando las bases para la adopción de normas de negociación por la Junta Ejecutiva Internacional de ILWU, especialmente la autorización de una donación soli- daria de $3,500 en diciembre de 2013. Varios meses después, el Consejo de Distrito de Puget Sound envió una carta a los administradores de Sakuma, instándolos a respetar los trabajadores y firmar un contrato con FUJ.

El boicot comienza

A pesar de que la compañía violó las leyes labores, esto no fue suficiente para que Sakuma Brothers se sintiera obligado a negociar. Los trabajadores decidieron intensificar el boicot por parte de los consumidores - la misma táctica que fue usada con éxito por César Chávez y la Unión de Campesinos en los años 60 y 70. Los boicoteos pueden servir, pero se requiere de enormes recursos para llegar a los con- sumidores y el tiempo suficiente para que den resultados. El ILWU apoyó el boicot de varias maneras. En junio de 2015, la Convención Internacional de ILWU celebrada en Hawaii aprobó por unanimidad una resolución en apoyo de los trabajadores de Sakuma y su boicot de Driscoll’s - el mayor distribu- idor de moras frescas del mundo. En julio del mismo año, el ILWU propon- gió a FUJ un perfil detallado de la corporación elaborado por el Departamento de Investigaciones de ILWU que les permitiera desarrollar un boicot más efectivo con un enfoque más estra- tégico en su campaña. Los miembros de ILWU siguieron apoyando a los tra- bajadores de Sakuma, sumándose a las actividades del boicot en diferentes lugares del noroeste.

Los jubilados organizan protestas

Los miembros pensionados orga- nizaron una espectacular protesta en su Convención celebrada en septiembre de 2015 en San Francisco cuando doce- nas de delegados, acompañados por el Presidente Internacional, Bob McEl- rath, Vice Presidente, Ray Familathe y Presidente del Local 13, Bobby Olivera, Jr., marcharon con actitud desafiante a la sección de frutas y verduras de Whole Foods Market. Los jubilados pusieron una mani- festación espontánea y respondieron a las preguntas de los compradores, que se mostraron receptivos. La gerente de la tienda finalmente se unió al diálogo y compuso en hacer llegar las preocupacio- nes de los jubilados.

La solidaridad del Local 19

Los trabajadores portuarios de Seattle, siguiendo una larga tradición, expresaron en julio de 2016 su com- promiso de solidarizarse con los tra- bajadores de Sakuma y su preocupa- ción por Driscoll’s Berries, con lo cual comunicaron claramente a Sakuma que lo que estaba en juego era mucho más importante, tal como el ILWU lo había hecho una década antes cuando la Unión de Campesinos necesitó apoyo en California.

Plan para una gran marcha

A principios de julio de 2016, estaban en curso los planes para una gran movilización con 250 partidarios - incluso miembros de ILWU e IBU - para marchar por los campos de moras de Sakuma y terminar con una concen- tración ante la sede de la compañía. La misma táctica se había utilizado con éxito al año anterior para generar repor- tajes positivos en los medios de comuni- cación, tal como se detalló en el número de junio de 2015 de The Dispatcher.

Aumentaron los problemas legales

A principios de julio, un juez federal ordenó que Sakuma pagara $250,000 en costos legales a los abogados que rep- resentaron a un grupo de trabajadores que habían puesto una demanda colec- tiva contra la compañía. El juez ordenó que Sakuma pagara tres veces más de lo que su abogado quería que se pagara. Sakuma evitó un juicio ante un jurado la legislación para que el árbitro determinara - o de lo contrario ambas partes presentaran ante un árbitro neut- ral sus propuestas para que el árbitro
dado a destajo en 2014 tienen derecho a que se les pagaran los descansos de 10 minutos, resultando en un pago prome-edio de $231 por trabajador. La demanda interpuesta por trabajadores de Sakuma cambió las condiciones en todas las granjas en el estado de Washington. El Presidente del Local 19, Rich Austin, observó que “los trabajadores de Sakuma sin duda lograron una vic- toria extraordinaria en su lucha por mejorar sus condiciones y aumentar el salario a $15 por hora - y lo hici- eron paliando apoyo a los miembros de ILWU y otros sindicatos, con la ayuda del Ministerio Nacional de Tra- bajadores Agrícolas, y mediante el fomento de la solidaridad con los gru- pos comunitarios en toda la región. Dado que muchos de los recole- tores de moras eran originarios de las comunidades indígenas en México, ellos también se esforzaron por apoyar a sus compatriotas en los campos de moras de Driscoll en Baja California, los cuales están concentrados alred- edor del pueblo de San Quintin en la costa del Pacífico unas horas al sur de Tijuana, para que ellos también pudie- ran mejorar las terribles condiciones de trabajo allí.

En el noroeste del Pacífico, miles de trabajadores agrícolas en Washing- ton, Oregon y el valle de Okanagan del Canadá siguen trabajando en condicio- nes miserables y necesitan desespera- damente un sindicato que les ayude. “Espero que podamos ayudar a FUJ a conseguir un buen contrato y hacer llegar la organización sindical a muchos trabajadores más que la necesitan,” dijo Austin. “Han tenido un gran comercio.”

Aposto por los huelguistas: La huelga en Sakuma duró tres años. Los trabajadores se mantuvieron unidos a pesar de miles de ataques del empleador.

Aposto comunitario: Grupos comunitarios y religiosos fueron pieza clave para la victoria de los huelguistas.
No doubt about it: oil-by-rail is a real threat

This past Labor Day, longshoremen looked back on a summer that vindicated our opposition to America’s largest proposed oil-by-rail project.

It began with the terrifying oil train derailment on June 3rd in the Columbia River Gorge where 96 tank cars carrying explosive Bakken crude oil crashed and burned – spilling 42,000 gallons near the town of Mosier, Oregon. After weeks of public hearings, and a unanimous vote to ban oil terminals by Vancouver’s City Council, and a unanimous vote to ban oil terminals by Vancouver’s City Council, the Clearwater River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, Mayor Charlie Hales; to his right are Executive Director Paul Lumley of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

The future our members support includes sleek, pale wind blades — not smoldering oil cars.

If built, Tesoro’s oil terminal would bring free “unit trains” a day, each carrying 100 or more tank cars right through downtown Spokane and Vancouver. That’s three million gallons of volatile crude oil per train – much of it destined for overseas ports.

Tesoro’s oil trains would be a near-constant presence and hazard to surrounding residents and longshore workers. The Mosier derailment offers the clearest possible justification of our concerns and a blaring signal that Washington State Governor Jay Inslee should reject Tesoro’s terminal.

Also this summer, local and state leaders joined the ILWU in speaking out against the oil terminal. The ILWU supported the city of Vancouver’s unanimous vote to ban future oil terminals by Vancouver’s City Council, along with our union, joining tribal nations, and the City of Vancouver during a month-long hearing. All of us urged the Washington Environmental Council to deny Tesoro’s proposal.

We hope that this summer’s unmistakable lesson remains clear for Governor Inslee: he must deny the Tesoro project to protect residents and workers – while ensuring the possibility of a cleaner energy future.

Jared Smith
President ILWU Local 4
Vancouver, Washington
Editor’s note: A version of this letter was published in The Olympian newspaper on Labor Day.

Oppose the TPP

A s president of the longshoremen’s union in Tacoma, I’m naturally pro-trade. Being from Washington state, I also get to witness the large volume of this state’s bountiful agricultural products flowing from Eastern Washington to all over the globe.

So many jobs are dependent in some form or fashion on the success of trade in Washington state. I’m proud to help export Washington goods to foreign countries and unload products to benefit people on our shores.

So it might come as a surprise that I strongly oppose what’s been billed as the biggest free-trade agreement in a generation, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). If this agreement passes Congress, it may directly benefit my workforce through an increase in jobs, but in this day and age of globalization, it would be very shortsighted to think only about the effects of something so substantial through a lens of self-interest.

The reason is simple: TPP isn’t really about trade. Of the agreement’s 30 chapters, only six have to do with reducing barriers to trading goods and services. The deal is mostly about giving the world’s biggest corporations special rights and privileges that would come at the expense of workers, the environment, even consumers.

Take, for example, the labeling of foods. Food safety laws, pesticide limits and the use of additives would be subject to challenge as “illegal trade barriers.” It’s no accident that both parties’ presidential candidates and the vast majority of Americans now oppose TPP.

For a sense of what’s wrong with the deal, consider where it comes from: It was negotiated behind closed doors with help from hundreds of “advisers” representing companies such as Wal-Mart, Chevron and Cargill. Our laws and legislative bills are supposed to be created by government representatives for the safety and benefit of citizens, not corporations and their lawyers.

The deal also gives away national sovereignty and gives special rights to corporations in the name of free trade. It gives firms new rights to sue the U.S. government in front of uncountable panels of corporate lawyers. The lawyers would be able to award the corporations unlimited sums of money — to be paid by American taxpayers — including for the loss of “expected future profits.”

These foreign firms would only need to convince the lawyers that a U.S. law or environmental protection measure violates their new rights.

TPP isn’t just a corporate power grab; it’s also a job killer. The U.S. International Trade Commission found that the pact would further gut the U.S. manufacturing sector. A study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research found that the deal would lead to pay cuts for all but the top 10 percent of U.S. earners. After the loss of 5 million manufacturing jobs in recent years, this could be devastating.

We need agreements that benefit the most people for the greatest good, not just corporations.

TPP would force many U.S. workers into direct competition with the workforce in countries like Vietnam, where laborers earn about 65 cents an hour.

While strong, cross-party opposition to the TPP continues to grow, a small but influential group in Congress is still scheming to quietly pass the TPP in the lame-duck session after the election.

Too many of our state’s representatives — including Democratic Congressman Derek Kilmer and Denny Heck — are still undecided. This must change. Washington’s elected officials should understand that trade should be about expanding the economy and creating jobs, not increasing inequality and special corporate privileges.

There is some good news: Lawmakers have to listen to their constituent. For the sake of our economy, environment and democracy, let your elected representatives know why we oppose the TPP.

We have a saying in the ILWU: “An injury to one is an injury to all.” That is why we cannot support this agreement, and we encourage all citizens to get educated about it.

Dean McGrath is president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU 23) in Tacoma. This article first appeared in the Tacoma Daily News.

Protecting the public: Local 4 President Jared Smith has been a leading critic of the dangerous plan to increase shipments of explosive Bakken crude from the oil fields of North Dakota through the Columbia River Gorge. Local 4’s involvement has helped gain new allies and build new relationships in the struggle for good jobs – while protecting workers, residents and the environment. Pictured on Smith’s left is Portland Mayor Charlie Hales; to his right are Executive Director Paul Lumley of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

Constant danger: Federal investigators found Union Pacific Railroad was responsible for causing the derailment and fire in June near Mosier, OR that burned for 12 hours. (photo by KATU-TV)
Dear Editor,

My life is so busy that I had to sit down and get my priorities straight. My family is first and my Union is second. The family is first because it is my family. The Union is next because it protects my family, and allows us to live a life with dignity. Everything else is a distant third. My Union is under attack by the PMA, global shipping and Stevedoring companies. They haven’t been able to beat us at the bargaining table, so they are recruiting allies in Washington, D.C. who are introducing legislation that would limit our ability to defend union rights and threatens ILWU jurisdiction. We are not the only union under attack. The same shipping interests are attacking maritime unions all over the globe, using the same tactics.

So, what can I do about it? I’m just one guy, and a pensioner at that. I will continue to put money into the Political Action Fund, so the ILWU can continue to support our political allies. I will continue to call my elected officials when legislation that will impact our Union is proposed. I will help educate the young members, so that they will understand what makes the ILWU the strong Union that it is. Most of all, I will stay involved and informed, because without my Union I am just a lone voice in the wilderness.

Mike Jagielski
President, Local 23 Pensioners

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Meeting the candidate: New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan was visited in early October by International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams (right) and Local 13’s Joe Cortez; both sit on the ILWU Legislative Action Committee. Governor Hassan is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by anti-union incumbent Kelly Ayotte. The race has been too close to call, with Ayotte declaring her intention to vote for Donald Trump that has since become a liability. Other issues include Ayotte’s opposition to equal-pay-for-women legislation and Hassan’s history of opposing “right-to-work-for-less” legislation designed to cripple unions. “We wanted to personally meet with Hassan to express the ILWU’s support for her Senate campaign,” said Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. “Hassan has strong working-class roots; her father was a union member and she won our support because of her record as Governor where she fought for working families.” Cortez and Adams delivered a campaign contribution, made possible from voluntary member contributions donated to the union’s Political Action Fund. “It was a pleasure meeting with Governor Hassan, and I hope she wins her U.S. Senate race so we can have more friends like her in Congress,” said Cortez.
Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union’s library at discounted prices!

**BOOKS**

**Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU.** By Harvey Schwartz. An inspiring collection of first-hand accounts from ILWU union leaders and rank-and-file workers. $17.00.

A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii. By Sanford Zalburg. A high quality re-issue of the informative epic account of Jack Hall and the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii. $13.50 (paperback).

The Legacy of 1934: An historical exhibit by the ILWU. Produced as a catalogue to accompany the new travelling historical art exhibit about the origins of the ILWU in the 1934 maritime strike, this brief but vivid publication stands on its own as a pictorial history of the coastwise strike and an account of the extraordinary sacrifices and democratic principles of the founding members of the union. Two (2) for $5.00

Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States. By Charles Larroque. A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. $10.00

The ILWU Story. This book unrolls the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. $5.00

The Big Strike. By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. $9.00

The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront. By David Wellman. The important new study of longshore in the ILWU. $20.00 (paperback)

The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938. By Harvey Schwartz. A new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union's organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. $9.00

**VIDEOS**

"Eye of the Storm: Our Fight for Justice and a Better Contract." A 58-minute DVD feature documentary film produced and directed by Amie Williams. Eye of the Storm tells the story of the 2002 longshore lockout on the West Coast. DVD version: $5.00

"We Are the ILWU." A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version: $5.00

"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges." A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD: $5.00

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