



SUPERCARGOES AND CLERKS UNION LOCAL 40

SECRETARY-TREASURER-BUSINESS AGENCY
221-0342

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PORTLAND, OREGON 97210

DISPATCHER
221-0340

February 13, 2012

Robert McEllrath,
President,
International Longshore and Warehouse Union
1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Brother McEllrath:

I am writing on behalf of ILWU Local 40, the clerks and supercargoes in the Columbia River; this letter is about the EGT facility in Longview. First, I wish to express our appreciation for all the guidance and courage that you, personally, have consistently shown all of us. Your leadership has been inspirational. However, Local 40 has tough questions that I can't answer, so I am writing this letter to you, and including the other locals because the answers will affect all of us. I believe they are at the heart of what the ILWU is about.

In the past weeks, thanks to your direction, EGT has discontinued using General Construction and directly hired workers that are now represented by the ILWU. I understand that we have concluded contract negotiations for both in-house and shipside manning and that we have an agreement that encompasses hours, wages, manning and working conditions. Despite consistent requests by Local 40, we were excluded from the negotiation process. I have been advised by our membership that both longshoremen and foremen are included in the agreement. Clerks are not.

The ships that work at EGT have cargo that needs to be planned, directed, manifested, documented, and inspected. There are stowage arrangements, releases, mates' receipts, bills of lading and other documents that are being completed by management. Our charter was signed in January of 1946 by Harry Bridges and Louis Goldblatt, granting our jurisdiction for all "supercargoes, supervisors, checkers, weighers, and lumber markers with jurisdiction embracing all workers... and all ports on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers." This is all work that should be performed by our members, who are dues-paying members in good standing of the ILWU.

The Brothers and Sisters of Local 40 have been a part of this struggle from the onset. Don Weiss, whose registration number is three numbers behind yours, stood next to you on the tracks in Vancouver. Our President, Dawn DesBrisay, was right there when you stood up to police in Longview. Her pictures have been used all over the world. I, and many other members of Local 40 were with Secretary-Treasurer Adams on the tracks at 2:00 am when the first train was turned away from EGT. We have been on the picket lines in front of the facility with Local 21 until we were asked to leave, which we did, and we have not resumed picketing even though it is now apparent that the ships are going to work without clerks.


That leaves us with some hard feelings and hard questions, including;

1. Why wasn't Local 40 included in the negotiations?
2. How are we going to protect our clerks' jurisdiction from further encroachment?

President McEllrath, we believe in your leadership, but our jurisdiction is under attack. We need answers. Respectfully, I am requesting on behalf of the entire membership of ILWU Local 40 that you attend our stop-work membership meeting on March 14, 2012 so that we may, together, understand or formulate solutions that will protect all of us.

I look forward to discussing these solutions with you next month so that we may continue to be unified. If you have any questions, or if I may be of any assistance whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Brotherhood,



Dane Jones
Secretary-Treasurer / Business Agent
ILWU Local 40

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opeiu 11, afl-cio

cc: Ray Familathe, International Vice President, Mainland
Wesley Furtado, International Vice President, Hawaii
Ray Ortiz, Coast Committeeman, ILWU Longshore Division
Leal Sundet, Coast Committeeman, ILWU Longshore Division
ILWU Locals 8, 10, 13, 19, 23, 34, 40, 52, 63, 91, 92, 94, and 98