

COMMITTEES
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NATURAL RESOURCES

Assembly
California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT



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June 14, 2005

Mr. Kilsoo Seo
Monterey Bay Travelodge
2030 North Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Seo:

I am writing to follow up on my letter dated September 13, 2004,, to urge you and your company, SNFK, Inc., to continue negotiations with UNITE HERE Local 483 for a contract with workers at the Monterey Bay Travelodge that meets their needs, especially in the area of health insurance.

The conditions under which your employees live and work are of concern to me, especially since I understand that they and their families—including 19 children—have been without health insurance for over eight months now. As you well know, these employees are hard-working members of your staff and our community. They want the chance to provide a healthy and safe environment for their families. They are dedicated to their work and often have overcome great obstacles to be where they are today. Juana Enriquez, who I named 2005 Woman of the Year for the 27th Assembly District, is a great example of this.

Resolution of this issue would also bring to an end the ongoing negative press coverage and help the Monterey Bay Travelodge retake its position as a positive force in the local tourist economy—and doing so would be beneficial for everyone.

As I wrote in my previous letter (copy enclosed), Leonard O'Neill, Secretary-Treasurer for UNITE HERE Local 483, has successfully worked with dozens of local hotel owners over the past few years to negotiate fair contracts for their members. It is his wish to continue this record of success—built on a dedication to fairness for businesses and workers—at the Monterey Bay Travelodge. I wish to reiterate my earlier request that you negotiate with UNITE HERE Local 483, and keep me informed of the progress in these negotiations. If I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 831-649-2832.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Laird".

JOHN LAIRD, Assemblymember
27th Assembly District

JL:co

cc: Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 483

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY &
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September 13, 2004

Mr. Kilsoo Seo
Monterey Bay Travelodge
2030 North Fremont Street
Monterey CA 93940

Dear Mr. Seo:

I am concerned about reports that some of my constituents who work at your Monterey Bay Travelodge are facing the elimination of their health insurance benefits, pension contributions, and a wage freeze at \$8.84 per hour in the latest contract offer from your hotel. I understand that you have been a fair and responsible employer in the past, as you have provided your workers with the security of full family health insurance coverage without monthly co-payments. That health insurance has offered your employees the safety to plan family budgets on low-incomes and has freed them from the threat of financial ruin, should a family member require unplanned medical treatment.

I urge you to reconsider your contract offer to your Travelodge employees. Please continue to negotiate with UNITE HERE Local 483.

While the international tourism industry was hit hard after 9-11, Local 483 has since been able to settle contract terms with 14 Monterey Bay area hotels that preserved employee health insurance plans. It is my hope that you can work something out that protects the health insurance, pensions and wages of the workers at the Monterey Bay Travelodge, as well.

Please keep me informed about the progress of your employee contract at your hotel, and call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Laird".

JOHN LAIRD
Assemblymember, 27th District

cc: Mark Weller, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.