



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Charles Royer, Board Chair
Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium PFD
P.O. Box 94445
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Mr. Royer,

As Chairman of the Board which oversees the public benefits associated with Safeco Field, we are writing to express our support for the organizing efforts of concert workers who work in your venue.

It is our understanding that some of your event clients who rent your public facility engage Rhino Staging to supply live event production labor. Last year, the riggers who are employed by Rhino NW won a certified NLRB election and the right to be represented. Rhino is violating Federal law by refusing to bargain with its employees and the NLRB has ruled that:

By failing and refusing since August 17, 2015, to recognize and bargain with the Union as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of the employees in the appropriate unit, the Respondent has engaged in unfair labor practices affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 8(a)(5) and (1) and Section 2(6) and (7) of the Act.

As elected officials for the City of Seattle, we strongly support livable wages, secure employment, adequate health care and family friendly work scheduling. We believe that good faith negotiations between employers and represented employees are one of the best ways to achieve these goals. We are writing to express our concern that publicly owned facilities in Seattle are unwittingly abetting large national corporations to exploit area workers.

We have a particular concern for our more vulnerable residents and workers; those in our city at the lower end of the wage-earning spectrum. Rhino riggers have no job security, are subject to capricious work scheduling, have no health benefits and are compensated at hourly rates 40% to 70% lower than local event-industry standards.

The live events in your venue that these workers make possible (e.g., Billy Joel, Paul McCartney, JayZ) provide significant public benefit. They generate admissions tax for the City, work for Safeco field staff and a great deal of revenue for your building tenant and the concert promoter. Providing fair pay to the workers who make such revenue generation possible is also a public benefit.



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We urge you to request that your tenant and your tenants' event clients not contract with Rhino Staging or any other concert labor provider who does not compensate its employees at prevailing industry standards.

Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts to improve the quality of life in our city.

Council President Bruce Harrell

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Councilmember Tim Burgess

Councilmember M. Lorena González

Councilmember Lisa Herbold

Councilmember Rob Johnson

Councilmember Debora Juarez

Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Councilmember Kshama Sawant