



New York State
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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September 20, 2017

Mr. David Hayes
General Manager
Hilton Albany
40 Lodge Street
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Mr. Hayes,

The Executive Committee of the New York State Council of Churches has voted to offer its full support for the employees at the Hilton Albany and for their efforts to reach a fair union contract that provides them with respectable wages and benefits and ensures they will be treated with dignity and respect. New York State Council of Churches will honor the boycott called by these employees and their union, the Hotel Trades Council, and will refrain from doing any business or attending any events at the Hilton Albany until the boycott is lifted.

The New York State Council of Churches, representing 7,000 congregations across the state including hundreds in the Capital Region, has as its mission to advocate for the poor and disenfranchised in our state. We always urge employers to be just to their workers. We respect and support the right of unions to boycott or strike as recourse until a fair contract is negotiated. In that spirit, we are extremely concerned to learn of the positions you have taken in bargaining with your employees. In addition to your unacceptable economic proposals, such as completely eliminating your employees' pension, you have also rejected their proposal for language that would prohibit various types of discrimination in their workplace. Hilton Albany's positions are disappointing, and indicate that it is not the type of business that responsible customers should patronize.

The staff, members, and the clergy and parishioners in the congregations we represent, regularly spend time and attend events in Albany. At this time, we will urge our partners to avoid the Hilton Albany. New York State Council of Churches strongly urge you to take a more reasonable and fair approach in your contract negotiations with your employees and to resolve your labor dispute immediately. Until you do so, we will honor the employees' boycott and encourage others to do the same.

Sincerely,

Dustin Wright
President

Peter Cook
Executive Director