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Tuesday, August 03, 2010

The Honorable Dennis Johnson
Mayor, City of Wenatchee
PO Box 519
Wenatchee, WA 98807

Dear Mayor Johnson

I am writing to urge that the Wenatchee City Council reject the proposed merger of food service agreements between the convention center and the Toyota Center. The plan to combine the profitable convention center with the Toyota Center has significant issues, most notably

- **Loss of dependable income.** The workers at the convention center and Cost Hotels have continued to turn a decent profit for the City of Wenatchee; however, this proposed plan proposes to terminate this profitable arrangement and replace it with an entirely different model which has no guarantee of success, and at great risk to the workers at the convention center;
- **Any financial benefits are at the expense of workers.** The “efficiencies” gained by combining these two facilities will come at the expense of the citizens Wenatchee, by gutting their wage and benefit packet. These workers will have no alternative but to use public services to make up for the loss of family medical and living wages;
- **Loss of business that the city had built using its progressive reputation.** The City of Wenatchee stands to lose a large piece of business (estimated at nearly 27%), which it had cornered by using the current Unionized food service contractor and its superior benefit packet. Most if not all of this business will likely go elsewhere in the state should that the convention center lose its progressive reputation and competitive advantage;

You must know that without any requirement, these companies will not sit down with Local 8 nor continue to pay superior wages and benefits currently enjoyed by your citizens who work at the convention center. We are willing to discuss this issue with you further should you so choose. I can be reached at 206-208-1306

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Van Rossum".

Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Officer