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October 14, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Veto of Senate Bill 34

Governor Newsom,

Today is a disappointing day for tens of thousands of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) members, their dependents, and the communities that rely on them.

Your decision to not sign Senate Bill 34 (Richardson) (SB 34) has not gone unnoticed and it raises serious concerns about your priorities. By choosing to dismiss this legislation, brought to your desk with bipartisan support and little to no opposition, you have sent a clear message: **foreign profits take precedence over the welfare of American workers**.

This decision underscores a troubling pattern, where financial backers and corporate interests overshadow the voices of those who rely on you, as our State's Chief Executive, for leadership.

Your veto of SB 34 represents a profound betrayal. This bipartisan bill aimed to safeguard middle-class sustaining port jobs and ensure taxpayer funds were not used to automate jobs away. The overwhelming support for this legislation from both parties and the public should have galvanized you to take action in favor of protecting workers.

Instead of supporting hardworking individuals who contribute to California's economic vitality, you have sided with corporate lobbyists and foreign ocean carriers, prioritizing their interests over those of American dockworkers and other workers alike. The workers who once supported you will remember this betrayal. Your actions have communicated a stark truth: **You Are Prioritizing Profits over People**. We will not forget, and we will hold you accountable for this decision.

SB 34 was a balanced approach to advancing environmental progress while simultaneously safeguarding the economy and good middle-class union jobs. It would have ensured that innovation and attaining environmental goals did not come at the expense of the working class.

The veto undermines the ILWU, and all workers grappling with the realities of increasing automation. Based on your decision to not fight against the implementation of additional job displacing technology, the fight against job displacement must be led by workers themselves.

It is alarming that, in a moment where you could have stood up for organized labor who voted for you, contribute to the economy and local communities, and pay taxes, you instead chose to turn your back on workers. Your failure to thoroughly read and consider the implications of SB 34 reveals a lack of commitment to the people you represent.

Governor Newsom, your veto of SB 34 reinforces a troubling narrative: *that political influence trumps the well-being of working families*. Your actions have communicated a scary reality: *You Are Prioritizing Profits over People*.

While SB 34 may be dead for now, the movement advocating for worker protections against automation and responsible environmental goals is far from over. Now it is more important than ever to realize how imperative it is that we continue to fight for the American workforce.

Your veto message references the need for “local collaboration.” Yet there can be no real collaboration when labor — the people most affected by these decisions — is excluded from the conversation. Calling that process “collaborative” is misleading and undermines the public trust needed to achieve our shared environmental goals. It is clear that your office has not meaningfully engaged with labor on these issues.

Your veto reenforces why organized labor’s members continue to move right on the political spectrum; they have lost faith in your administration’s prioritization of labor as compared to other interests. *You Are Prioritizing Profits over People*.

The broader struggle for dignity and fairness in labor continues.

Sincerely,



Gary Herrera
President
Local 13



Danny Vilicich
President
Local 63



Daniel G. Miranda
President
Local 94

cc: Robert Garcia, U.S. Representative
Nanette Barragan, U.S. Representative
Laura Richardson, CA State Senator
Lena Gonzalez, CA State Senator
Mike Gipson, CA Assemblymember
Josh Lowenthal, CA Assemblymember
Karen Bass, Los Angeles Mayor
Rex Richardson, Long Beach Mayor
Tim McOsker, Los Angeles Councilmember
Bobby Olvera, Jr., ILWU President
Marvin Pineda, California Advocacy