

Circuit City lands on Oregon AFL-CIO's Do Not Patronize List

SALEM — The Oregon AFL-CIO has added Circuit City to its Unfair/Do Not Patronize List.

The action was taken Aug. 10 at the quarterly meeting of the state labor federation's Executive Board. The request

to cite Circuit City came from the Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council in North Bend.

As reported in the NW Labor Press, in March Circuit City fired 3,400 "associates" and offered to rehire them at a

lower wage. The company said it was eliminating jobs that paid "well above" market rates.

Circuit City, based in Richmond, Virginia, pays about \$10 to \$11 an hour, on average. Entry-level pay is around

\$8 an hour.

In response, Southwestern Oregon CLC President Robert Westerman sent a letter to Circuit City CEO Philip Schoonover (who was paid \$8.52 million in fiscal 2006), informing him of the council's action to place the company on its Unfair List and offering to meet with him or a representative of the store.

Via letter, Circuit City Senior Vice President Eric A. Jones Jr. told Westerman, "Our goal is to do what is in the best interest of our entire workforce. Encouraging consumers not to patronize our locations is directly contrary to their livelihoods. This fact is so plainly obvious it does not warrant any further discussion or meeting."

Jones asked the council to reconsider its action as it "is directly contrary to the interest of those you presumably seek

to serve."

Jones further asked the council to "promote the people" of Circuit City because "they look forward to seeing as many potential customers as possible — not less."

Executive Board members of the Oregon AFL-CIO were convinced. They voted unanimously to add Circuit City to the Unfair/Do Not Patronize List and to forward the request to the national AFL-CIO to take the same action.

Circuit City joins the following businesses on the Oregon Unfair/Do Not Patronize List:

- Wal-Mart (statewide)
- Shilo Inns (statewide)
- Plympton & Associates
- Fog Cutter Capital Group and Granite Investments (nationwide)

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Longshore Union continues picketing Ash Grove Cement

Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8 continue holding informational picketing at Ash Grove Cement on Swan Island in Portland, protesting the company's use of foreign workers to unload cement from foreign-flagged ships.

"Ash Grove continues to undermine good local jobs by not paying area standard wages," said Local 8 President Jeff Smith. "They are also using foreign workers on the ship to do American jobs. This is bad news for our local economy. This company needs to start

playing by the rules."

Ash Grove operates a lime plant in Rivergate that uses union longshore workers and a plant in Durkee, Oregon is represented by the Machinists Union.

Local 8 has been holding informational picketing almost daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Swan Island plant located at 4000 North Port Center Way. (Turn left at the stoplight where McDonald's is on N. Going St.)

Smith said the union and the picketers could use some help and has asked for union members to join the line.

For more information, call Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Karl Lunde at 503-224-9310.

ILWU will showcase skills Aug. 25 at Seaport Celebration

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8 is inviting all union members and their families to attend the Seaport Celebration at Terminal 6, Saturday, Aug. 25, sponsored by the Port of Portland.

The free event will feature a barbecue lunch cooked by Local 8 President Jeff Smith, performances by Captain Bogg & Salty Pirate Band, equipment demonstrations by members of the Longshore Union, children's activities, prizes and tours of Terminal 6 with views of the large container cranes.

"This year we will again be co-hosting an event for the public to see what goes on at Portland's largest marine terminal," Smith said.

Seaport Celebration starts at 10 a.m. and will go until 3 p.m.

Terminal 6 is located at 7201 N. Marine Drive, Portland. Adults will have to show a photo ID to attend. A head count is needed, so RSVP by calling 503-944-7010.

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