



Delegates from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — the largest delegation at the 50th convention of the Oregon AFL-CIO — did not return from a caucus when Gov. Ted Kulongoski spoke on opening day Oct. 8. AFSCME was upset with the governor after he gave across-the-board wage increases averaging 18 percent to every manager, while rank-and-file members were in the process of voting a contract that gave them 6 percent raises over two years. “We signed off on a deal that the state said was the absolute maximum it could afford,” said Ken Allen, executive director of Oregon AFSCME Council 75. “To turn around and do this, it’s a slap in the face.” Allen told delegates that the wage increases for managers will cost the state \$34 million that isn’t budgeted. “It will come out of our agencies’ hides,” he said. “If agencies run out of money, it will be the rank-and-file who will be laid off, not the managers.” On Oct. 4, members of AFSCME Local 3336 at the Department of Environmental Quality rejected the tentative contract.

## Resolutions Committee

Delegates voted to support each of the following resolutions:

- **Central Labor Council General Fund:** Establishes a fund dedicated to central labor councils.

- **In Support of Sustainability in Education Construction:** Pursue legislation to require that all publicly-funded construction and renovation meet LEED Silver standards.

- **Scheduling Oregon AFL-CIO Conventions:** Consider including weekends when scheduling conventions.

- **For Progressive Solutions to the Health Care Crisis:** Affirmed its support for national health care reform that would provide universal coverage, endorsed HR 676 (a bill

in Congress that would institute a single-payer health care system in the U.S. by expanding the Medicare system to every resident).

- **Support of the Bradwood Landing Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal:** Lobby the governor, Legislature and Congress to support the permitting and construction of an LNG terminal at Bradwood Landing in Clatsop County.

- **Support Feedlot Workers:** Help get settlement and signed contract between Beef Northwest in Boardman and the United Farm Workers.

- **In America, No One Should Go Without Health Care:** Commit to campaign and mobilize members to win universal health care for all Americans.

## Immigration reform sparks most debate

SEASIDE — There was surprisingly little floor debate on most of the 36 resolutions that delegates considered over three days at the 50th convention of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

The exceptions were immigration reform and drug testing.

The lengthiest discussion occurred when members of the Law and Legislation Committee recommended non-concurrence on Resolution No. 8 — “Undocumented Workers.”

Submitted by the Oregon Machinists Council, the resolution called for securing U.S. borders to stop the inflow of illegal immigrants and for the AFL-CIO to oppose any attempts by Congress to weaken U.S. immigration laws or grant amnesty to undocumented workers.

“This is not anti-immigration, it’s anti-illegal immigration. That’s the bot-

tom line,” said Bob Frazier, a delegate from Woodworkers Local 246, speaking in favor of the resolution.

Jamie Partridge, a delegate from the National Association of Letter Carriers, speaking in support of non-concurrence, said the meat of the resolution runs counter to the policy of the national AFL-CIO. “The immigration policy is broken,” Partridge said. “But it’s workers who get hurt. It doesn’t hurt employers.”

In the end, delegates voted 125-57 for non-concurrence, thus killing the resolution.

Resolution 18 (see Law and Legislation Committee report), calling for comprehensive immigration reform, also was discussed at length before passing 110-68.

A resolution to protect workers who

are taking legally-prescribed medications (including medical marijuana) from employer-imposed discipline was referred back to the Executive Board.

Mike Sullivan of the Steelworkers Union said workers who are not impaired but are taking legally-prescribed medications are being punished by employers.

Building trades unions opposed the resolution. “If you drop a tool from the fourth floor of a building, the person at the bottom doesn’t care if it’s dropped by someone impaired by legal or illegal drugs,” said Keith Wright, business manager of Bricklayers Local 1.

A resolution to stop a potential merger by an independent union in the construction industry with the United Steelworkers was determined to be a jurisdictional dispute and withdrawn.

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