

Unions file suit to stop Washington liquor initiative

SEATTLE — United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 21 and Teamsters Local 174 have filed a lawsuit to invalidate the recently passed Initiative 1183, which privatized liquor sales in the state of Washington. The unions say the measure is unconstitutional because it violates the “single subject” rule.

Approximately 700 members of UFCW who work in state liquor stores and 300 Teamsters who distribute liquor, wine, and beer under the current

system stand to lose their jobs.

The initiative — written by Costco Wholesale Corp., which contributed a state record \$22 million to help get it passed — must be implemented by June 2012.

The unions claim that while the vast majority of the campaign around I-1183 was on the question of privatization of the state liquor system, the initiative actually contains several other fundamental provisions, such as changing the laws for the distribution and sale of wine; changing the ability of the state Liquor Control Board to regulate alcohol advertising; and creating new franchise protections for distributors.

“Our democracy is threatened when one corporation like Costco can write a complex initiative, pay for the signatures, pay for the ads that control the debate, all the while avoiding discussion on the other parts of the proposal that are the true motivations by the corporation in the first place,” said Tom Geiger, communications director of UFCW 21.

The complaint states that the Washington Constitution says that every bill (including initiatives) may contain only a single subject and that the single subject must be reflected in the bill or ballot title.

“The object of this constitutional provision is threefold: (1) to prevent hodgepodge or ‘logrolling’ legislation; (2) to prevent surprise or fraud upon voters by means of provisions in bills of which the titles gave no intimation, and which might therefore be overlooked and carelessly and unintentionally adopted; and (3) to fairly apprise the people through such publication of legislative proceedings as is usually made of the subjects of legislation that are being considered,” the complaint states.

Geiger said I-1183 changes state law in a way that leaves Costco “particularly well-positioned to make huge profits in the future.”

The unions acknowledge that it isn’t illegal for a private company to pay for an initiative and spend unlimited funds

to get it passed. However, they say it is illegal for the company to abuse the system by loading an initiative with too many changes to the law.

“The reason for the single rule clause in the Constitution is to prohibit this

very thing,” Geiger said.

The unions sued the state and Gov. Chris Gregoire in King County Court. They want the initiative declared “null and void” and an injunction preventing enforcement.

If you worked for Wonder Bread Bakery out of Portland, OR, from 1970-1985, please contact Zac Cooper at 800-479-9533.

If you worked for Davidson/Sunbeam Bakery out of Portland, OR, from 1950-1975, please contact Zac Cooper at 800-479-9533.

If you worked for Columbia Sign out of Portland, OR, from 1947-1957, please contact Zac Cooper at 800-479-9533.

If you worked for Kaiser Shipyard out of Vancouver, WA, from 1943-1945, please contact Zac Cooper at 800-479-9533.

AFSCME sets up fund for murder victim

A memorial fund has been established for the family of Buddy Herron, an Oregon AFSCME member and father of four who was murdered Nov. 28.

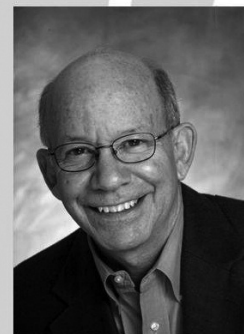
Herron was a corrections officer at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution and a member of AFSCME Local 3361. He was on his way to work from Helix to EOCI in Pendleton shortly before midnight when he stopped to help an apparent stranded motorist. But 22-year-old Joshua Charles Weeks of Portland stabbed Herron and stole his

pickup. Herron managed to call 9-1-1 for help; he died later at a local hospital. Weeks was apprehended and is in custody facing a murder charge.

Local 3361, in conjunction with Oregon AFSCME Council 75 and the Oregon Department of Corrections, set up a memorial fund at U.S. Bank and launched it with a \$3,000 donation.

You can contribute through any branch of U.S. Bank in the United States. The account name is Buddy Herron/AFSCME Local 3361.

Peter DeFazio

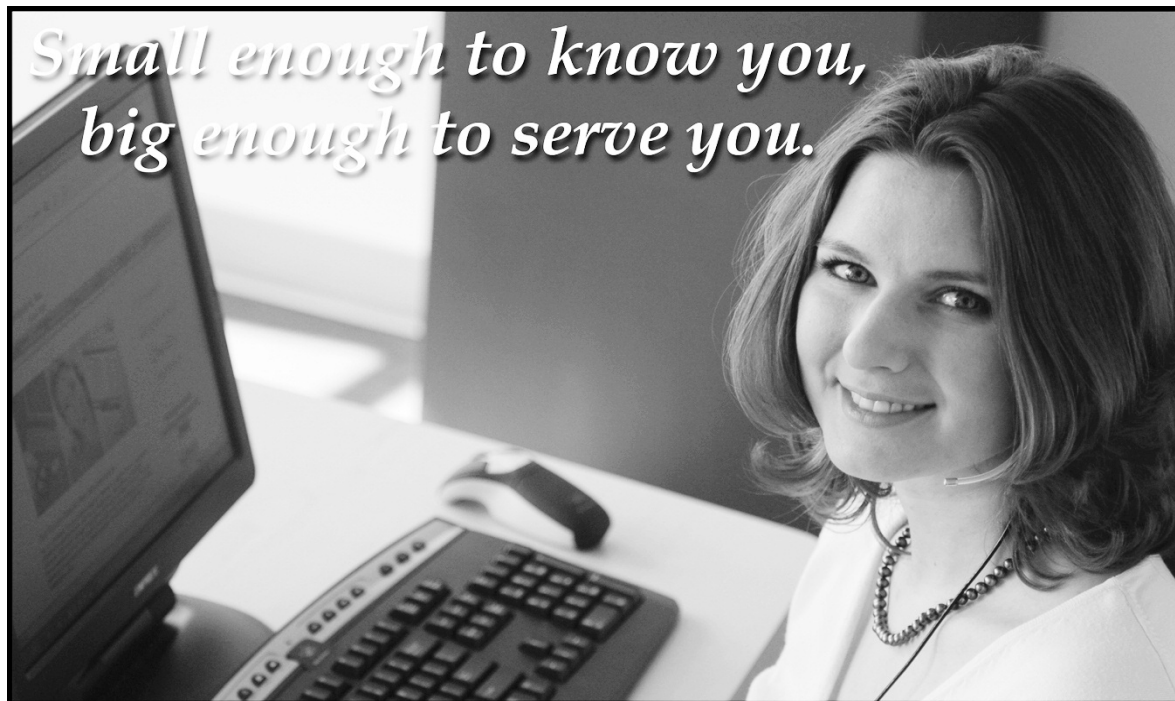


Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season in solidarity



Authorized and paid for by *DeFazio for Congress*
P.O. Box 1316, Springfield, OR 97477, (541) 485-1622

*Small enough to know you,
big enough to serve you.*



Taft-Hartley Trust Administration



Benefit Plan Administrators, Inc.

Since 1954

1220 SW Morrison St. | Suite 300 | Portland, OR 97205 | 503-224-0048 | www.aibpa.com
Represented by the Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local #11



Sharon Maynard
• Social Security Disability



Nelson Hall
• Personal Injury
• Workers Compensation

Serious Injury and Death Cases

- Construction Injuries
- Automobile Accidents
- Medical, Dental and Legal Malpractice
- Workers' Compensation Injuries
- Social Security Claims



BENNETT, HARTMAN,
MORRIS & KAPLAN, LLP
ATTORNEYS

“Working hard for hard working people”

210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 500
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-3149

503 227-4600

WWW.BENNETTHARTMAN.COM

Our Legal Staff are Proud Members of UFCW Local 555