

Coalition calls for repeal of Freedom Foundation's tax exempt status

A broad coalition of community organizations in Washington and Oregon announced Dec. 7 that they have filed a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) calling for an investigation and repeal of the ultra-conservative, anti-union Freedom Foundation's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

status. "The Freedom Foundation is blatantly ignoring the IRS rules that prohibit tax-exempt organizations from engaging in partisan political activity—and as a result, they're getting tax breaks while taxpayers are footing the bill for their conservative attacks," said Andrew Biviano,

founding board member of the Northwest Accountability Project, a non-profit social welfare organization. "It's outrageous that the Freedom Foundation is engaging in partisan attacks on the middle class, the environment, and the values that we hold here in the Pacific North-

west, while hiding behind a bogus 501(c)(3) tax exemption."

As laid out in the complaint, the coalition alleges that:

- The Freedom Foundation is participating in political campaign intervention.
- A substantial part of the Freedom Foundation's activities is attempting to influence legislative activity and lobbying.
- The Freedom Foundation is operated for the private benefit of the Republican Party and other conservative and libertarian groups in the states of Washington and Oregon.

To qualify for exemption under Section 501(c)(3), an organ-

ization may not participate or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office. It must be operated exclusively for exempt purposes and not for the benefit of a private individual or group. And it can undertake only a limited amount of lobbying activity.

The coalition filing the complaint includes the Oregon AFL-CIO, the Washington State Labor Council, UFCW Local 555, Washington State Council of Firefighters, Oregon Nurses Association, and other groups.

HAPPY
Holidays
FROM THE OREGON AFL-CIO
OFFICERS & STAFF

Tom Chamberlain, President	Emily Sahler, Office Manager
Barbara Byrd, Secretary-Treasurer	Dinah Foley, Organizer
Graham Trainor, Political Director	Ben Nelson, Organizer
Russell Sanders, Communications Director	Shaun Franks, Regional Field Staff
Jess Giannettino Villatoro, Field Director	Phil Carrasco, Regional Field Staff
Allison Lupico, Organizing & Research Director	Darcy Bedortha, Regional Field Staff
Mark Warne, Workforce Liaison	

...Labor at Paris Climate talks

From Page 16

job. We clearly outnumbered them by quite a bit, but they stayed back and there was no attempt to shut down the rally.

Going forward, what role do you see the union movement playing in addressing climate change?

What impressed me so much was this: The level of understanding, of knowledge, of commitment to impact this economic transformation is so much higher in the trade union movement in other parts of the world than it is here in the United States. In the United

States, many parts of the trade union movement are still saying, "Okay, this is real but it's not going to happen for another 40 or 50 years; we've got time." When you talk to brothers and sisters internationally, they say, "No, brother, it's happening now, and we may be too late." So they get it, in the international labor movement, that we have to pressure our governments, and in collective bargaining agreements with employers, to do everything we can to cut emissions. In our country, we've got to educate our own members that this is serious, and it's not abstract. It shouldn't be looked at as an inconvenience, but rather, as an opportunity to restructure the way we do economics, and a way to fight inequality.

What work do you personally expect to do now that you're back home?

I sit on governing board of the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy in our state, and we're contemplating a ballot initiative next year that would cap carbon and charge fees for polluters and then take that money and reinvest it in the economy. There are many steps between now and actually putting something out there on the ballot, but that's what we're working on. Should the decision be made not to go ahead in 2016, we'll continue educating our own membership and the greater public about reducing carbon emissions. Our governor also has a proposed clean air rule which has a cap on carbon. They want to adopt the rule by mid-summer.

SMART
SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION

Local 16 Members, Officers and Staff would like to wish
Everyone a Safe and
Happy Holiday Season

Officers	Staff
Dustin Hysmith - President	Charles Johnson
Tim Freeman - Vice President	Business Manager/FST
Mirco Ryba - Recording Secretary	
Steve Carpenter - Conductor	Dennis Dover
Kirsten Leger - Warden	Business Representative
Executive Board	Shawn Eckelberry
Devin Hosking	Business Representative
Seth Kerner	Joe Harris
Art Himm	Business Representative
Russ Jacobson	Robert Riehl
William Willman	Business Representative
James Ramos	
Joel Hutchinson	Brian Noble
Trustees	Business Development
Ty Lerud	Vanessa Steward
Josh McClaughy	Business Development
Chris Vanelverdinghe	

Office Staff

Sharon Allen - Office Manager
Emmy Keever - Admin
Adrienne McCarter - Admin