

WASHINGTON

Lawmakers reject bill linking tax breaks to Boeing jobs

OLYMPIA — A majority of the Washington State House Finance Committee bowed to The Boeing Company Feb. 5 by rejecting a union-backed bill that would have tied \$8.7 billion in aerospace tax incentives to jobs.

The Legislature granted Boeing the tax incentives — the largest tax break in U.S. history — during a special session in November 2013 to “maintain and grow” the state’s aerospace workforce of 83,295. It was supported by the Machinists Union and the Society of Professional

Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), IFPTE Local 2001, as they expected aerospace jobs to grow in the state because of it. Since then, however, Boeing has shed 4,057 jobs in Washington, including 3,000 high-paying engineering and technical jobs.

Three statewide polls showed 73 to 84 percent of respondents support tying the aerospace tax breaks to specific job requirements in Washington. HB 2638 would have cut the tax benefit in half if Boeing employment fell

by 4,000, and would have eliminated it entirely if employment fell by more than 5,000.

“[This] vote ... demonstrates the power of corporate influence to overcome what is clearly the will of the people and the intent of the legislation,” said Machinists District 751 President Jon Holden.

HB 2638 was supported by seven Democrats on the committee. It was opposed by seven Republicans and one Democrat — Rep. Larry Springer of Kirkland. The 7-8 vote means the

bill will not advance to a floor vote in the House, and leaves the aerospace giant free to continue taking tax breaks from Washington, even if it keeps moving jobs out of the state.

“They’re double-dipping by collecting our tax incentives and securing additional tax incentives from other states at the same time they’re creating capability that will be used to compete against our Washington State workforce in the future,” Machinists Lodge 751 spokeswoman Connie Kelliher told

Workers Independent News.

Kelliher said lawmakers in South Carolina, Missouri, Alabama, and Oklahoma have all passed legislation giving tax incentives to Boeing. “And all of them had specific job numbers tied to their incentives, which were much less than the incentives that our state offered,” Kelliher said.

The \$8.7 billion Washington State gave the aerospace industry in 2013 was on top of \$3.2 billion the state approved in 2003.

UNION DEMOCRACY

New business manager at Insulators Local 36

In ballots counted Feb. 12, Walt Caudle defeated Alan Davis to become the new business manager of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 36. Caudle, 57, has been the union apprenticeship coordinator since April 2009. He succeeds Stan Danielson, who retired after 30 years at the helm.

Prior to his job as apprenticeship coordinator, Caudle was the elected business agent at Local 36 from 1996 until December 2008, when he stepped down and briefly returned to work with the tools.

A native Oregonian, Caudle worked in concrete after graduating from Sherwood High School. In 1981, his father convinced him to apply for the insulators apprenticeship program.



Walt Caudle

Caudle has a family history with Local 36 dating back to its inception in 1913. His father Lindy Caudle and five great-uncles all were members of the local.

Caudle is a delegate to the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, and serves on the board of directors of the IBEW and United Workers Federal Credit Union.

As business manager, he said he wants to bring more participation to union meetings, possibly through incentive programs. Work is “pretty good right now,” he says, but he plans to continue lobbying for large construction projects, such as the Jordan Cove LNG plant in Coos Bay.

“Stan and I worked together for a long time. I learned a lot from him,” Caudle said. “There

will be some changes, but mostly internal office stuff.”

Member Dave Gamble was hired to succeed Caudle as apprenticeship coordinator.

In other election results, vice president Ron Mathis outpolled Executive Board member Matt Grider by two votes to become business agent. Business manager and business agent are the local’s two elected staff positions. Davis, the incumbent business agent, did not seek reelection; instead he ran for business manager, and lost to Caudle.

Also elected were: Dreng Espelien, president; Jeff Marchi, vice president; Nick Garrison, treasurer; Angela d’Esposito, recording secretary; Jesse Markowski, trustee; and five Executive Board members: Level Sneed, Lincoln Caldwell, Gary Downum, Rob Bates, and Mike Thomas.

PEOPLE

Laborers Local 483 business manager **Erica Askin** is leaving office to take a position as in-house counsel for **Service Employees Local 49**. Askin has a law degree from Rutgers University, and has been with Local 483 since 2010. She was elected the local’s first female business manager in 2014, succeeding Richard Beetle.

Local 483’s Executive Board



Erica Askin

appointed Local 483 president Wesley Buchholz to replace her. The 1,000-member local represents workers in several City of Portland bureaus at the Oregon Zoo, and several smaller public employers.

Askin begins her new position March 21.

Chris Ferlazzo has left his position as longtime organizer for **Portland Jobs with Justice** after 14 years. Ferlazzo, 48, came to the labor solidarity organization after years as an activist with the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee and the Cross Border Labor Organ-

izing Committee. Over the years, he helped organize innumerable marches and protests in support of embattled workers. Ferlazzo says he’ll spend time traveling before considering future plans.



Chris Ferlazzo

Portland Jobs With Justice doesn’t plan to immediately fill the vacancy, and will decide later in the year whether to continue the position.

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LUPOLD VX3 SCOPE, 4 x14, B & C reticle, as new, never used. \$399. 503-975-9011

MISCELLANEOUS

7 PIECE MILK GLASS, 4 sherbet, 2 candlestick, 1 glass; Harvest Grape design, no chips, \$15. 360-687-4830

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:

In the Feb. 5 issue, an article about the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries’ \$2.5 million construction wage settlement with Southern Oregon University reported that Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 union rep Drew Waits had advised signatory contractors not to bid on the dorm portion of the project because it was set at lower residential prevailing wage rates, and that possibly not enough workers would be available to staff the job. Waits was a journeyman plumber at the time the project was bid, and he did not discourage signatory contractors from bidding the work. Waits said his employer, Patterson Plumbing, did not bid the project because of concerns about paying the lower wage rate.

NINE 1976-77 world champion Portland Trailblazer Red Hot and Rollin’ 7UP bottles, 16 oz., full, \$198. 503-678-6916

WANTED

OLD WOODWORKING tools, planes, levels, chisels, handsaws, slicks, adzes, wrenches, folding rulers, axes, hatchets, 503-659-0009

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COLLECTOR PAYS cash for older toys, oil paintings, American art pottery, and costume jewelry. 503-703-5952

MOTORCYCLES, tractors, boats, VWs, RVs, running or not, cash paid. 503-880-8183

COLLECTOR SEEKING old beer stuff, signs, cans, bottles; brand doesn't matter; the older the better. 503-357-7862

PAY CASH for firearms, especially Colt revolvers, call Kenny with what you may want to sale. 503-449-0584

WWII GERMAN items, medals, clothing, helmets, firearms, etc. Cash paid. 503-852-6791

1916 INDIAN PARTS for cannonball run; Harley parts for restorations. 503-351-5054

CLASSIFIED AD GUIDELINES

Subscribers may place one free classified ad per issue. Ads should be 15 to 20 words, all in lower case (NO CAPITAL LETTERS). Ads *must* include a phone number, including area code, or they will not be published. No commercial or business ads.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLASSIFIED AD

Indicate which union you are a member of, and send your ad to michael492@comcast.net or by mail to PO Box 13150, Portland OR 97213. We publish the first and third Fridays of each month, and the deadline is one week prior to that.

In 2015, there were 12 major strikes and lockouts involving 1,000 or more workers, higher than in 2014 with 11 major work stoppages. The 12 major work stoppages beginning in 2015 idled 47,000 workers.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/wkstp.nr0.htm>