

Who's on our side?

By Tom Chamberlain Oregon AFL-CIO President



Dennis Richardson is too extreme for Oregon

What would you think about a candidate who was front and center at last summer's Freedom Foundation fundraiser at the Oregon Zoo? Or stated he would implement Scott Walker's anti-union "reforms" in Oregon if he "had the power?" Criticized raising the minimum wage? Opposed extending health coverage to people with pre-existing conditions? Voted against prevailing wage, and opposed efforts to stop wage theft?

But wait. There's more.

This candidate stated that Oregon should send undocumented immigrants to private prisons in China, and he tried to amend legislation to prevent undocumented children from being covered by state health care programs.

These are all statements and positions advocated by Dennis Richardson, who is currently seeking the office of Oregon's Secretary of State. Mr. Richardson is too extreme for Oregon. His extremist views shaped his legislative record while he served in the Oregon Legislature. Time and time again, Mr. Richardson has championed legislation limiting the rights of women to make decisions concerning the right to choose. In 2007, he railed against domestic partnerships for same-sex couples and stood in opposition to legislation that prohibited businesses from discriminating based on sexual orientation. He has compared homosexuality to smoking and drinking, saying all are based on someone's behavior.

After a mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, Mr. Richardson stated that if he had been a teacher at the school and allowed to carry a gun, "most of the murdered children would still be alive and the gunman would still be dead, and not by suicide."

Needless to say, Mr. Richardson has been an outspoken opponent of a working people's agenda, including the prevailing wage, increasing the minimum wage, the right of workers to join a union, and access to health care.

While almost anyone would be a better choice for Oregon Secretary of State than Dennis Richardson, we are fortunate to have a candidate in Brad Avakian, who has been a champion of Oregon's workers for decades. While in the Oregon Legislature, Brad was a leader who not only voted for Oregon AFL-CIO priority legislation, but actively worked within the Legislature to get it passed. Brad has proven to be a defender of the environment by sponsoring the Oregon Renewable Energy Act, and a leader in the advancement of human rights by co-sponsoring the Oregon Equality Act.

As Oregon's Labor Commissioner, Brad has not tap-danced around controversial issues, but has shown the courage and leadership to do the right thing. He is a defender of rights for all Oregonians, fighting for janitorial workers who were denied their full wages, transgender patrons who faced discrimination in a North Portland bar, and a Christian in Bend who experienced religious discrimination in the workplace.

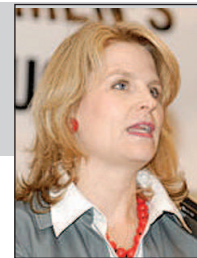
My favorite example of Brad's courage and leadership is in the fight against the Trans-Pacific Partnership, when many elected leaders were either supportive of the agreement or silent. Brad stood with U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and Congressman Peter DeFazio in rock-solid opposition to the TPP. Brad spoke at town halls and at rallies against a corporate agenda that has cost Oregon thousands of manufacturing jobs.

The choice for Oregon Secretary of State could not be more clear. Brad Avakian, through a decades-long career in public service, has stood for Oregon. My vote is for Brad.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, a 130,000-member-strong federation of labor unions.

Guest Opinion

By Liz Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer, National AFL-CIO



Women deserve better than Trump's sexism

At the last presidential debate, America's working women got a front-row seat to Donald Trump's sexism. He repeatedly interrupted Hillary Clinton, a phenomenon too many working women can relate to, and repeated his claims that she doesn't have the "presidential look" it takes to lead the United States. It seems like every day a new story from Trump's past reveals more misogyny. Take the latest story out of his golf club in Palos Verdes, Calif., where Trump urged staff to fire unattractive hostesses and only hire "beautiful women."

But it is his horrific, ongoing treatment of Alicia Machado that has captured and maintained our attention. After winning the Miss Universe title, Alicia endured cruel comments from Donald Trump on her appearance and ethnicity. Trump reportedly referred to her as "Miss Piggy" and, presumably because she's Venezuelan, "Miss Housekeeping."

Donald Trump has a long history of attacking women who dare to stand up to, criticize, or go against his wishes. His latest smears are not only a direct assault on Latina women but also women who work as housekeepers, the majority of whom are women of color. By sneering "Miss Housekeeping" at Alicia, Trump displayed his ignorance and deep disrespect for housekeepers and the services they provide. If he is willing to be so public in his attacks against Alicia Machado, what does he

say about his hotel employees?

Women who work in housekeeping clock long hours at a physically demanding job. On top of the strenuous work, too often housekeepers are subject to sexual harassment and assault by the guests at hotels they work so hard to maintain. In fact, female hotel employees across the country—from Seattle to Long Beach—have been taking a stand against the all-too-frequent sexual harassment they face on the job.

Instead of disparaging housekeepers as nothing more than a term to be used as an insult, Donald Trump should be thanking them for keeping his hotels running. But the women who work in his Las Vegas hotel know that Trump is not the least bit appreciative of their hard work, evidenced by his continued refusal to negotiate a union contract with them at his hotel. Trump has never had the best interests of working women in mind and these recent comments prove that a Trump presidency would be disastrous for women everywhere.

Liz Shuler is secretary-treasurer of the national AFL-CIO. Prior to that she worked as an organizer/communications at Portland-based IBEW Local 125, and as executive assistant to IBEW international president Edwin Hill. This article originally appeared on the AFL-CIO NOW blog, with co-author Maria Elana Durazo. The AFL-CIO has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president.

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- #10 We LOVE to make loans - We make it easy!
- #9 Our rates are better - Saves YOU money.
- #8 We are easy to join - Takes less than 5 minutes.
- #7 We are convenient - 100s of ATMs in YOUR area.
- #6 We are insured - YOUR money is safe.
- #5 We are non-profit - YOU are our top priority.
- #4 You're not just a number...we know our members!
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- #2 We have fewer & lower fees
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