



OAKLAND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

~~*****Oakland Education Association*****~~

AN AFFILIATE OF THE CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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~~*****Oakland Education Association*****~~

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April 4, 2008

Robert McElrath
ILWU International President
Fax: 415-775-1302

Dear Brother McElrath,

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Oakland Education Association, representing teachers, counselors, nurses, psychologists, speech therapists and librarians, I want to express our solidarity with the bold and courageous decision of the Longshore Caucus of the ILWU to stop work at all West Coast ports for eight hours on Tuesday, May 1, 2008, International Workers' Day, to demand "an immediate end to the war and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan and the withdrawal of US troops from the Middle East."

The ILWU has long stood in the forefront of efforts to halt unjust wars and crimes of aggression against the people. We remember with deep appreciation and respect that nearly one year ago, on May 19, 2007, longshore workers joined with OEA and others to shut down Stevedore Services of America, calling for an end to the war and money for schools and social services. Just months later, we were honored to endorse and participate in the "Labor Conference Against the War" organized by ILWU Local 10 and 34 on October 20, 2007. We will continue to support and join with you in calling on labor to unite around a program of action to stop the war and withdraw the troops NOW! It is a crime that billions are being spent on a war of aggression against Iraq, and yet we are told that there is no money for education or social services.

OEA intends to support and honor our longshore brothers and sisters on May 1st by engaging in actions in solidarity, including teach-ins and informational picketing about the connection between the war in Iraq and cuts in education and social services at home. We also will ask our members to observe a moment of silence in honor of those who have lost their lives in this war, and in support of your action. We salute your continuing efforts to bring labor together around this critical issue.

Yours in solidarity,
Betty Olson-Jones
Betty Olson-Jones
President, Oakland Education Association

Cc: Melvin Mackay, President, ILWU Local 10