



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

Dec. 15, 2020

Jason Childs, President and CEO
Saltchuk Marine
450 Alaskan Way South, Ste. 708,
Seattle, Washington 98104

Mr. Childs:

As a Seattle City Councilmember and an elected representative of working people, I am writing to let you know that I stand in complete solidarity with the Saltchuk workers who are fighting your company's efforts to take away their pensions.

I am appalled to learn that Saltchuk Marine, which is part of one of the largest private companies in the US, with annual revenues of \$2.6 billion, is trying to undermine and even eliminate the workers' pensions at Foss Shipyard.

The skill and hard work of these shipyard workers have enriched the company owners and executives like you.

Saltchuk's own website includes a lengthy corporate "values" statement that claims, "We want Saltchuk companies to be the kind of place where we would all be proud for our children to work" and that the company's standard is "to always be honest and ethical" and build a "mutually respectful culture."

Given your treatment of the shipyard workers, such words qualify as rank hypocrisy. There is absolutely nothing "ethical" or "mutually respectful" about trying to steal retirement benefits from your workers and their families.

On the contrary, Saltchuk is demonstrating the insatiable drive of corporations for profits for a few of you at the cost of the living standards of your workers, without whom you would not have the profits in the first place. I fully recognize that your company is doing this in an attempt to gut the unions and the workers' futures, and hire independent contractors at a fraction of the cost and liability. It would also give you the ability to padlock the gates tomorrow, and

declare the shipyard closed and/or a non-union workplace with no financial repercussions to your company.

Be assured that my Council office takes this threat to the workers and their unions very seriously. We will be doing everything in our power to support the workers in their struggle, including mobilizing other unions and community members to defend their pensions. In attacking the workers' pensions, you are taking on a fight with the entire community that stands with the workers and their unions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kshama Sawant', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kshama Sawant
Seattle City Councilmember