



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

January 27, 2022

Dear Executive Secretary-Treasurer Garrow and the Executive Committee of the Martin Luther King County Labor Council,

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Just this past Tuesday, my Council office announced a [City Council resolution](#) in solidarity with the incredible movement launched by Starbucks workers to get unionized. We held a [press conference](#) and rally alongside Starbucks Workers United and several other Seattle unions, including PROTEC17, UAW 4121, and WFSE 1488. The resolution says that Starbucks should immediately stop its shameless union busting, allow the workers to unionize free of intimidation, and bargain a fair contract after the unionization.

I am writing to ask if you will stand with the Starbucks workers and publicly express support for the resolution, urging all Seattle City Councilmembers to vote YES on it. I am also writing to request that the Labor Council also urgently pass a resolution in solidarity with the Starbucks workers, and call out the company's union busting.

As you know, workers at two Starbucks stores in Buffalo successfully unionized despite threats. Moreover, the workers there went on a five-day strike and forced Starbucks to give paid quarantine time for ALL workers in the company, nationwide, when they're exposed to COVID. This is a stunning victory, and shows what's possible when workers use a collective, fighting strategy.

But we know the workers are taking on a behemoth of a corporation and billionaires like Howard Schultz. I've heard personally from a number of Seattle and Buffalo workers about the vile lengths to which the bosses are going with their union busting. Starbucks executives know what's at stake. If there is a successful union at Starbucks, it will be an unprecedented breakthrough for unionization in the American fast food industry and the private sector as a whole. It will also be a historic opening to organize women, LGBTQ workers, and workers of color. For all these reasons, Starbucks and the political establishment are ferociously opposing any further stores from unionizing.



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I am sure we fully agree that labor union leaders and progressive elected representatives need to immediately provide solidarity to help the Starbucks workers continue winning unionization battles in stores across America.

With Seattle being the headquarters of the company, we expect the political establishment here to particularly try and oppose the resolution. Their goal will be to prevent the resolution from being introduced for a vote in the first place. Your support and solidarity will be necessary for workers and socialists to be able to push back against the opposition and win this resolution here in Seattle.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns, or if there's anything our office can do to support your efforts.

In solidarity,

Kshama Sawant
Seattle City Councilmember