



Seattle City Council

July 21, 2014

Jeff Bezos, CEO
Amazon, Inc.
426 Terry Ave. North,
Seattle, WA, 98109

Dear Mr. Bezos,

Many of us have had the opportunity to meet with security officers who help protect your campus, and we are deeply concerned about the appearance of retaliation against workers trying to form a union. On June 4, 2014, the Seattle Human Rights Commission sent you a letter [attached] about this matter, stating:

“It has come to the attention of the Seattle Human Rights Commission that one of Amazon’s security subcontractors, Security Industry Specialists (SIS), is operating in a manner that likely violates the human rights of security officers employed to protect your employees and headquarters.”

The letter further asked that you look into the treatment of workers by SIS. It is our understanding that there has been no response from your office to date. We respectfully request that you respond forthwith to this legitimate inquiry.

Furthermore, we commend your Supplier Code of Standards and Responsibilities, which prohibits retaliation, ensures whistleblower protections, and instructs your suppliers and subcontractors to follow local laws. As part of your response to the Seattle Human Rights Commission, we ask that you evaluate how Amazon is upholding the principles of your Code as applied to SIS and the subcontracted security officers who protect your Seattle campus.

Ensuring that service workers are able to support themselves and their families with living wage jobs is critical to a healthy economy in Seattle. Our economy is strengthened when we build from the middle out. Our environment is healthier when people can live near where they work. Our community is more vibrant when working people can afford to live in the city. These goals are advanced when workers can choose whether or not to join a union, free from fear of retaliation.

As one of Seattle’s largest employers, we ask that Amazon take full responsibility for ensuring a respect for human rights and national labor law on behalf of your direct and subcontracted employees alike. Thank you in advance for taking action to ensure that the basic rights of all workers on Amazon’s campus are respected.

Sincerely,

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