



WESTERN CARWASH ASSOCIATION

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Sam Olivito
Executive Director

April 4, 2008

TO: All WCA Members
FROM: Jerry Nix, President
SUBJECT: Unionization Attempt of California Car Wash Operators

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AFFILIATED WITH...

INTERNATIONAL CARWASH ASSOCIATION



In response to articles in the media, discussions on talk radio, and a report that was issued by the Carwash Workers Organizing Committee (CWOC) of the United Steelworkers Union, the following is provided to establish a fair and equitable balance for the public.

The report issued by the CWOC is a distortion of the conditions in the professional car washing industry. As we have stated unequivocally in the past, the Western Carwash Association does not condone or support unfair labor practices or hazardous working conditions in the car wash industry. We also do not support hazardous working conditions or worker abuses. We believe the CWOC report is talking about the minority of carwashes in California.

The CWOC report stereotypes and infers that car wash workers are unable to negotiate with car wash owners on their own and they need the assistance of a union. This is why we believe the report fails to accurately or fairly address conditions in the professional car wash industry.

The Federal Department of Labor Standards and the California Department of Labor Standards Enforcement regulate wages and hours and work rules to ensure workplace safety. We believe that the unions are never the remedy for criminal offences.

The laws that ensure fair and equitable pay, safe working conditions, proper workers' compensation coverage, and health and safety codes are abided by the vast majority of car wash operators. In fact, the Association has worked closely with the California Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor in providing information and education to our operators regarding existing laws and the need to comply.

The laws that are needed to accomplish what the union states it can provide have been in effect for years. What we need instead of unionization is enforcement of the existing laws to provide a safe workplace environment.

The Western Carwash Association has worked closely with the Department of Industrial Relations and all the Labor Commissioners since AB 1688 (Carwash and Polishing Registration Act) became law on December 22, 2005. We, in fact, suggested at the beginning of the legislative process in 2003 that the measure be a bill that enforces

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existing laws and that the fines for violations be significant to provide a deterrent to those operators who were found to be in violation.

Our efforts to stay on top of this situation in California do not end. WCA has a confirmed appointment with Labor Commissioner Angela Bradstreet in her Los Angeles office on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. Once again, we will work with the Department of Industrial Relations to help rid our industry of the "rogue" car wash operators while making the business life of the professional car wash operators fair and equitable.

The CWOC's report also misstates the very important contributions made by professional car wash operators in preserving and protecting our environment. We have a long and documented history of water conservation and environmental preservation. We promote professional car washing as an alternative to charity fund raising done in an environment that allows for untreated waste water to flow into the stormdrain system finding its way into the ecosystem (rivers, streams, lakes and oceans), unlike the professional car wash whose wastewater goes directly into the sanitation sewer and/or is collected, pretreated and placed in a landfill.

Unfortunately, there are car wash owners who do not abide by the laws. They need to be caught and punished. However, the majority of car wash owners are responsible. They treat employees fairly, pay them competitively, and train them to ensure their safety and that of their customers while protecting the environment. The CWOC report suggests otherwise and is simply ignoring reality.

The WCA will continue to address the "rogue" car washers issue so a level playing field is provided by stopping their unfair competition that results in violating workers' rights.



P.S. Remember, the **WCA Express News** newsletter is being emailed now and not mailed through the US Postal Service. If you aren't receiving your copy of the newsletter, that means we don't have a current email address for you. Simply send your email address along with your name and Membership ID # to **Chuck Chatham** at chuck@wcwa.org. If you can't locate your ID #, be sure to include your company/car wash name and address. As always, you can view and download each issue of the newsletter from the "News" page on our website at www.wcwa.org.

F.Y.I.

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JACK ———
CARWASWINNER