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Torben Seebold
ITF-Billigflaggenkampagne & Verträge
ITF flags of convenience campaign
& Agreements

Vereinte
Dienstleistungs-
gewerkschaft

Bundesvorstand
Ressort 10
Fachbereich Verkehr

James C. McKenna
President & CEO Pacific Maritime Association

Sent by email: jmckenna@pmanet.org

Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10
10179 Berlin

Torben Seebold
Maritimer Koordinator
ITF Deutschland

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Dear Mr McKenna,

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I am writing to you as the maritime coordinator of ver.di, United Services Trade Union in Germany, to express our strong support for our brother union in the ITF, the ILWU, which is currently negotiating with the PMA for a coast wide contract.

Datum 20.11.2014
Ihre Zeichen
Unsere Zeichen TS

These negotiations are of course extremely important to West Coast longshoremens and women, their families and communities, and, indeed the American public. ITF affiliates around the world including United Services Trade Union are also following these negotiations closely given the significance of the West Coast trade and the leading role that the ILWU plays within the global family of dockworker unions.

The ILWU is an experienced and responsible union that has approached the negotiations with maturity and in good faith. We are therefore alarmed that the PMA has decided to embark on a press offensive that dishonestly and unjustly seeks to blame the union for congestion in the largest West Coast ports when this problem has not been caused by them. Indeed, industry experts have pointed to employer mismanagement as a contributing factor.

In our view, this behaviour calls into question your commitment to the negotiations, and along with the other dockworker leaders meeting in London, England this week, we have pledged to provide active solidarity support to the ILWU and its members by any and all legal means available to us, if necessary, in order to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Like the ILWU and ITF, we are keen that a fair and swift resolution be reached in these contract talks, and call on the PMA to demonstrate the same determination as the ILWU in achieving this.

Yours faithfully,

Torben Seebold
Maritime Coordinator ITF Germany

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