

06/23/98

Introduced By: Kent Pullen

JETEQUIPMOT.DOC/CMM

Proposed No.: 98-388

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MOTION NO. **10492**

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A MOTION relating to labor relations and fair treatment of workers, expressing concern for the payment of fair wages and the right of workers to organize, calling on Jet Equipment and Tool Company to bargain with its employees in good faith, and expressing support for those employees of that company who have been permanently replaced because of their desire to collectively bargain.

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WHEREAS, the quality of life in the Puget Sound region depends on the ability of its citizens to earn a fair wage, and

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WHEREAS, the continued economic prosperity and viability of this region depends on employers paying their employees a fair and living wage, and

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WHEREAS, many of the private employers in the Puget Sound region recognize and respect the right of workers to organize and collectively bargain, and

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WHEREAS, fair collective bargaining allows both employers and employees to thrive and to prosper, and

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WHEREAS, Jet Equipment and Tool Company, a subsidiary of Walter Meier Holding Company of Switzerland, which manufactures woodworking and metal working tools, has chosen not to bargain in good faith with its local employees and has instead permanently replaced them, and

1           WHEREAS, the actions to date of Jet Equipment and Tool Company constitute  
2 counterproductive business practices which result in labor strife that hurts both the  
3 company's workers and our entire community at large, and

4           WHEREAS, the actions to date of Jet Equipment and Tool Company set a terrible  
5 precedent for good labor management relations in the Puget Sound region and may have a  
6 permanent adverse effect, and

7           WHEREAS, King County government believes that strong labor organizations are  
8 necessary to promote fair compensation for labor, social equity and justice, and safe  
9 working conditions, and

10           WHEREAS, while the King County Council would not normally take a stand on a  
11 labor issue involving a private sector company, the local, national and international  
12 attention focused on this issue compels action, and

13           WHEREAS, King County government has actively engaged in partnership with  
14 employees to better public service, and

15           WHEREAS, the actions of Jet Equipment and Tool Company have astonished  
16 many local elected officials,

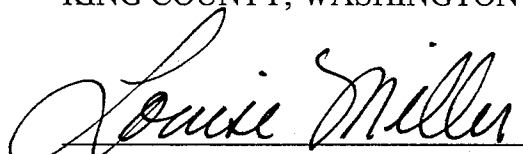
17           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

18           The King County Council strongly affirms and supports the right of the employees  
19 of Jet Equipment and Tool Company to organize and collectively bargain with that  
20 company's management. King County strongly supports fair labor practices and opposes  
21 efforts to circumvent the intent and spirit of collective bargaining laws. The council also  
22 respectfully calls upon the owners and managers of Jet Equipment and Tool Company, and  
23 its parent company, Walter Meier Holding Company of Switzerland, to expeditiously and

1 immediately reinstate those employees previously permanently replaced for exercising  
2 their rights. Further, the council urges Jet Equipment and Tool Company, and its parent  
3 company, to immediately return to the bargaining table and reopen negotiations in good  
4 faith.

5 PASSED by a vote of 8 to 4 this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July,  
6 1998

7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
8 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

9   
10 Chair

11 ATTEST:

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13 Clerk of the Council

14 Attachments:  
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