

Economic & Social Policy and International Affairs #7

Subject: Cuban Solidarity and Engagement with the National Network on Cuba

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Submitted by: Board of Directors

WHEREAS, SEIU Local 503 represents a diverse membership committed to social, economic, and racial justice both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the people of Cuba have endured decades of economic hardship exacerbated by the ongoing U.S. embargo and related policies enacted by successive presidential administrations, which have restricted access to essential goods, medicine, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, these policies have had profound humanitarian impacts on working people in Cuba, limiting opportunities for growth and well-being while isolating them from global solidarity; and

WHEREAS, labor solidarity is international in nature, and understanding the lived experiences of workers across borders strengthens our ability to organize, advocate, and build a more just world; and

WHEREAS, the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) and its Northwest chapter work to educate, advocate, and build people-to-people connections between workers in the United States and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, engagement with Cuban workers and communities provides valuable opportunities for SEIU 503 members to witness firsthand the impacts of international policy and to build meaningful solidarity relationships;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that SEIU Local 503 affirms its solidarity with the Cuban people and recognizes the harm caused by past and current U.S. policies toward Cuba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU Local 503 commits to supporting and participating in the work of the Northwest chapter of the National Network on Cuba through education, outreach, and collaboration where appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU Local 503 urges the SEIU International Union to establish a relationship with and support the National Network on Cuba in a similar manner, including encouragement of member education and international labor solidarity efforts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SEIU Local 503 will continue to advocate for policies that promote peace, international cooperation, and the lifting of barriers that harm working people both in the United States and abroad.

IMPACT STATEMENTS
Financial: No fiscal impact

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38 **Equity:** This resolution would have a positive impact. It reaffirms SEIU503's strategic
39 plan and commitment to centering and supporting all workers through international labor
40 solidarity.

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42 **Legal:** Generally no legal impact, though we note that transactions and travel involving
43 Cuba could be subject to additional legal sanctions and prohibitions.

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45 **Political:** This resolution would direct the union to "support the NW chapter of the
46 National Network on Cuba." Known as the NNOC, the organization, among other things,
47 advocates and lobbies at the federal level for changes to foreign policy and law. Work
48 would need to be done to coordinate with our International Union who leads all federal-
49 level policy and political work; we would not be able to take a position on federal
50 legislation independently.