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Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you to today to ask your organization's support in the endorsement, planning and facilitation of an International Workers' Day (colloquially known as May Day) rally on May 1, 2026, in Detroit.

What is May Day?

International Workers' Day, also known as May Day or Labour Day in many countries, is a celebration held annually on May 1st to honor the achievements and contributions of the working class. It originated in the late 19th-century labor movement's fight for an eight-hour workday, particularly commemorating the 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago. Today, it serves as a day of both recognition and protest, where workers around the world advocate for their rights, fair wages, and safe working conditions, often marked by rallies and demonstrations.

Why May Day?

May Day is fundamentally an American-born holiday rooted in the struggle for the eight-hour workday, making participation a powerful act of reclaiming that heritage. In the modern era, the day has evolved into a vital platform for building solidarity between labor and immigrant rights movements. The recent ICE raids in Minneapolis and the swift response by unions and community organizations underscore the urgent need for ongoing coalition building efforts. May Day offers unions a unique opportunity to coordinate and present a united front against corporate America's unchecked greed. As fundamentally democratic organizations, unions bring democracy to the workplace and serve as defenders of democratic principles worldwide. Given the current political climate, which many view as an assault on democracy, worker safety, and collective bargaining rights, May Day provides a crucial moment for unions to join with community allies in a unified, visible defense of all working people.

What I'm asking of you:

I am asking that your organization join the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO in solidarity by endorsing this event. We also request that you designate a delegate to participate in planning meetings to help to shape the character of the event and contribute to logistical coordination, education, and ongoing coalition-building. To ensure this event is impactful, we ask for your commitment to educating and rallying your members to participate.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

In Solidarity,

Justin Steenbergh

Oakland County Business Representative IBEW Local 58 Detroit
Metro Detroit AFL-CIO Executive Board

The official voice of the AFL-CIO in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties