

Labor Activist Faces Jail for Protesting “Right to Work” Union-Busting

Drop the Charges Against Wyatt McMinn!

On September 5, 2013 Wyatt McMinn, vice president of IUPAT (Painters and Allied Trades) Local 10 in the Portland, OR-Vancouver, WA area and a longtime fighter for the cause of workers’ rights and oppressed people, was arrested and charged with first-degree trespassing. Wyatt was taking part in a labor protest at a Vancouver meeting of the Freedom Foundation, an anti-union lobbying outfit that is putting “right to work” initiatives on the ballot in Oregon and Washington this year. Police intervened to prevent union supporters from being heard in the supposedly public meeting.

Wyatt is innocent of the charges against him, which threaten this working painter with months in prison and thousands of dollars in fines. The widely-circulated video of the event shows that Wyatt never refused to leave, nor did the police give him even a minute’s opportunity to do so before they handcuffed him.

What they call trespassing is exercising free speech at a public event on public property! The facts of this frame-up are clear as day, but we can’t count on justice from the bosses’ courts – the same courts that have convicted ILWU longshoremen in Washington for picketing, and in the Portland-Vancouver area and around the country sanction the mass incarceration of black youth. We appeal to working people, labor organizations, and supporters of democratic rights everywhere to join us in demanding: **Drop the Charges Against Wyatt McMinn Now!**

The police attack on Wyatt’s free speech rights is no isolated

incident. Working people in the Pacific Northwest, across the U.S. and around the world are under siege. The attempt by the grain cartel to break the coast-wide power of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) at the new EGT facility in Longview, Washington in 2011 was followed by a lockout of ILWU longshore workers at grain terminals in Vancouver on February 27 and in Portland, Oregon on May 4, 2013. Meanwhile, FBI agents raid the homes of supposed anarchists, police and private security guards go after ILWU pickets on both banks of the Columbia River while scabs load grain, and Democratic and Republican politicians alike threaten the wages, pensions and union rights of public-sector workers.

It’s in this climate of all-sided attacks on working people that the “Freedom Foundation,” which is funded by anti-union billionaires including the Koch brothers and the owners of Walmart, came to town to peddle their anti-labor poison. What kind of “freedom” does the “Freedom Foundation” stand for? The freedom of the bosses to exploit labor without any organized resistance – what they dishonestly call “right to work.” That’s why, for example, these “freedom” fighters want to take away teachers’ freedom to strike.

Brother Wyatt was a key organizer of the September 5 protest that showed the labor-hating hacks that Vancouver is a union town: *no Wisconsin here!* That’s why the bosses are trying to throw the book at him, and that’s why we all need to stand with him and say **NO** to this union-busting frame-up.

–Supporters of Wyatt McMinn

WYATT GOES ON TRIAL JUNE 27 IN CLARK COUNTY (VANCOUVER), WA

The following organizations and individuals say: **Drop the Charges Against Wyatt McMinn!*** Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council, Longview, WA; Northern New Mexico Central Labor Council; GCC/IBT Local 767M, Kent WA; Hot & Crusty Workers Assn., New York NY; IATSE Local 28, Portland OR; ILA Local 1422, Charleston SC; ILWU Local 4, Vancouver WA; ILWU Local 5, Portland OR; ILWU Local 8, Portland OR; IUPAT Local 10, Portland OR; IUPAT Local 364, Seattle WA; IWW, Portland OR; LIUNA Local 483, Portland OR; OEA/NEA East Multnomah County UniServ Council, Gresham OR; UBC Local 156, OR & SW WA; Batay Ouvriye Solidarity Network; Class Struggle Education Workers; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, NY Chapter; Laundry Workers Center, New York, NY; Partisan Defense Committee; Transport Workers Solidarity Committee, Bay Area CA; Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Vancouver WA**; Marty Goodman, New York NY, TWU Local 100 Ex. Bd., Ret.**; Jack Heyman, ILWU Local 10, Ret.**; Charles Jenkins, TWU Local 100**; Jeffery Kelly, Rep., IUPAT DC 5, Seattle WA**; Christian Lemoine, New York; Michael Munk, labor historian, Portland OR; Carol Oppenheimer, Santa Fe NM, AFM Local 1000**; Ken Riley, President, ILA Local 1422; Morty Simon, New Mexico, IBEW Local 611**; Christine Williams, TWU Local 100**. (List in formation)

*Endorsers do not necessarily agree with the particulars of the above statement.

**Organizational affiliation for identification purposes only.



I Endorse the Call to “Drop the Charges Against Wyatt McMinn!”

Name (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____ (contact info will not be published)

Mailing address: _____

Union/other organization _____

Check one: I am endorsing on behalf of my union or other organization (above).

This is an individual endorsement; you may publish my organizational affiliation for identification purposes only.

This is an individual endorsement, do not publish my organizational affiliation.

I pledge \$ _____ for the defense campaign Check to **Wyatt McMinn Defense Campaign** enclosed

Send checks/money orders to Wyatt McMinn Defense Campaign, P.O. Box 86902, Portland, OR 97286

For more information: 971-282-7903 defend.wyatt.mcminn@speedymail.org