



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

CHRIS WALSH, AIA
REPRESENTATIVE
6TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

Committees:
Transportation
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June 22, 2011

ROOM 39, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2014

Tufts Employee Association
15 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Tufts Employee Association (TEA):

I am in support of your efforts in undertaking to form a staff union at Tufts University. I have recently become acquainted with the organization that you are trying to build and I am fascinated by the novel approach to unionism taken by TEA and its members. Unions have played an important role in the development of a strong middle class in America and it is imperative to the country's future that they continue to evolve as a force for change due to the employment and educational requirements of today's workplace.

As an architect, I have had many opportunities to interact and work with unions in the building trades and I very much appreciate that different unions in different sectors of the economy must take on a variety of roles to prosper and best serve their members. Not only does TEA and its sister unions embrace the idea that unions can not all function the same, but they have been at the forefront of imagining and shaping unions for universities for the 21st Century.

One of my favorite examples of how TEA is a dynamic, forward-thinking organization is through their emphasis on career training as a means of guaranteeing work security. Anyone who works in the service sector of the economy knows that work changes constantly, and that employees and employers alike must keep their skills current and their understanding of jobs flexible to remain efficient. Rather than clinging to the idea of "job security," where a union works with employees to make sure that they have a job for as long as they wish, TEA believes in "work security"; one should be able to work for as long as possible, but understand that the job will change with technology, the economy, and the aims of the employer.

I believe that many employees and employers alike across the service sector could benefit from a stable relationship with an organization open to mutually beneficial relationships as TEA is. Please keep me updated on your progress, and know that I am always happy to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Walsh", written over a white background.

Chris Walsh, AIA
State Representative
6th Middlesex District