



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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August 16, 2009

President Lawrence Bacow
Office of the President
Tufts University
Ballou Hall, Second Floor
Medford, MA 02155

Dear President Bacow,

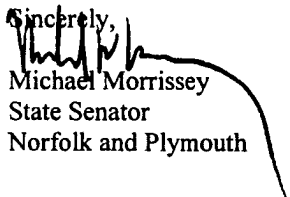
I am writing to you to address the Tufts Employee Association (TEA), which is currently conducting a union organizing drive of the clerical and technical workers at Tufts University. I wish to convey my support for the TEA, and to urge that you allow a fair and unrestricted union organizing process to take place.

As you know, unions have been instrumental in ensuring a decent standard of living for the working people of our state and nation. However, TEA organizers have taught me that their union model, which has worked wonderfully at Harvard University, UMass Memorial Hospital and other worksites, is more about building a strong community than it is about more traditional union issues. They have assured me that they will at no point engage in negative campaigning, rally around grievances, or use fear as a tool. I believe that Tufts and the communities that host the University will both benefit from the presence of such a constructive union.

In my conversations with TEA organizers, I have also learned about the union prevention campaign at Tufts. I believe that union prevention campaigns invariably function to intimidate and misinform workers, and at their most extreme they stifle the freedom of speech and thought that should be enjoyed by all members of university communities. I urge you to minimize the tension and discomfort that workers at Tufts feel by halting the union prevention campaign that the administration is conducting.

It is my understanding that peers of mine in the Senate and House of Representatives have reached out to you on this important issue. I have committed to following this organizing campaign, and invite you to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Morrissey
State Senator
Norfolk and Plymouth