

UNITE HERE! LOCAL 11

December 21, 2017

Maylis Souque, Secretary General
Eric David, Chair
France National Contact Point
OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

Dear Ms. Souque and Mr. David:

As co-president to UNITE HERE Local 11 in Los Angeles, I write on behalf of our union's more than 25,000 members to express deep gratitude to you and your colleagues for your efforts to effectively address our Specific Instance complaint regarding Natixis and the Westin Long Beach Hotel.

As you know, workers at the hotel began a unionization drive in February 2015 in order to win respect at work and fair wages and benefits. Their efforts were met with stiff resistance from local management. However, nearly three years later, I am happy to report that the workers have successfully unionized and are now in the process of negotiating their first collective bargaining agreement. This is a tremendous achievement both for the Westin Long Beach workers and for the broader movement for economic justice and women's rights in Southern California.

Put simply, this enormously positive outcome simply would not have occurred without the painstaking efforts you and your colleagues made over more than a year to investigate and resolve the complaint we filed with your office. Throughout this process, you and your colleagues on the NCP committee have demonstrated an extraordinary degree of transparency, diligence, and professionalism, which we believe should be held up as a model for the OECD Guidelines complaint process and similar human rights complaint mechanisms. Beginning with your initial response to our complaint and continuing throughout your intensive efforts to investigate the issues, mediate between the parties to resolve the matter, and report on the outcome, we have been profoundly impressed with every aspect of your work.

This case is a powerful illustration of how, through careful investigation and problem-solving by NCP leadership and members, the principles enshrined in the OECD Guidelines can be realized in practice. The positive outcome is a great credit to your office. We are profoundly grateful for all of your efforts and we wish you the best in this holiday season.

Sincerely,



Kurt Petersen
Co-President
UNITE HERE Local 11

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