



UAW Local 4121

2633 Eastlake Ave E, Suite 200 • Seattle, WA 98102 • 206.633.6080

UAW 4121 Statement in Solidarity with Councilmember Sawant Against Violent Threats

UAW 4121 stands firmly with our union sister Councilmember Kshama Sawant, member of AFT 1789, against the [violent and increasingly concerning threats](#) that she has received over the last month. Given the boldness of the right-wing nationally, at its worst during the insurrection on January 6th, these threats must be taken extremely seriously. These threats are part of a broad right wing and white nationalist backlash, and they are not only an attack against Councilmember Sawant, but also against the movements that she stands in solidarity with. As a union we unequivocally reject the violence that these threats represent, which is antithetical to the collective action and solidarity of the labor movement. Non-violent direct action is very different from threats to do harm to elected leaders and their staff, and we are committed to speaking loudly against any equivocation between the two.

Kshama has used her elected position to stand with unions and organize movements. She has walked numerous picket lines, including our own when we went on strike in 2018. She has played a leading role in winning key victories for workers like the \$15 minimum wage, and the Amazon Tax which creates affordable housing built with good union jobs. Kshama's unwavering support for unions and social movements is why we consider her our strongest ally in elected office.

We were therefore particularly appalled to learn that the threats against Kshama apparently came from a union worker in the Seattle Fire Department. We were also disappointed to learn that these threats have continued even after Fire Department officials contacted this worker. These threats are poisonous to the solidarity that unions must build, and there is no room for these attacks in the labor movement.

We urge Seattle City officials to seriously investigate these threats, and we join Councilmember Sawant in appealing that Seattle Fire Fighters Union IAFF Local 27 initiate a discussion in its membership about the unacceptability of violent threats, and their destructive impact on labor solidarity.

We also urge and will work with the broader labor movement and the Martin Luther King County Labor Council to join us in condemning violent attacks against elected officials, especially these recent threats against Councilmember Sawant. "An injury to one is an injury to all" is a cornerstone of the labor movement, and means that we must stand up to all forms of violence and intimidation.

Signed in solidarity by the UAW4121 Joint Council,

Douglas Avella-Castro
Leandro Casiraghi
Amanda Clouser
Max Friedfeld

Kaelie Giffel
Vern Harner
Dan Hart
Colleen Hoffman
Amzi Jeffs
Levin Kim
Kyle Kubler
Kristin McCowan
Erin Morgan
Emily Myers
Anzela Niraula
Jacob O'Connor
Elena Pandres
Nayon Park
Marissa Parker
David Parsons
Shua Sanchez
Paige Sechrest
Solmaz Shakerifard
Sam Sumpter
Samantha Thompson
Judy Twedt
Momona Yamagami