



OHIO SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

September 30, 2019

Ms. Karen Carraher
Executive Director
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
277 E Town Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Cambria Hotel Strike

Dear Director Carraher,

We write in regard to the OPERS-owned Cambria Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel, where workers have been on strike for over one year, beginning September 10, 2018.

It is our understanding that the Cambria is the lone holdout from a 26-hotel industry strike, and the only hotel still demanding that its employees increase their workload. We are deeply troubled that this unreasonable demand for an increased workload has not been addressed, thus preventing the strike from coming to an end.

Many families in Ohio rely on the retirement benefits they receive from OPERS, and many more will rely on these benefits in the future. Our concern is that this prolonged strike jeopardizes the state's pension investments by subjecting them to unnecessary risks. It is our understanding this strike has already resulted in the Cambria being removed from the list of preferred hotels provided by a local hospital and institutions of higher learning. Additionally, it is our understanding that businesses and events have cancelled room blocks, relocated events, and removed the Cambria from promotional materials.

These effects will ultimately be a detriment to OPERS participants, and unless a resolution is brought forth, will continue to harm the state's investment.

Ohio's OPERS participants have invested years of time and earnings into the program and trust that the state is protecting their interests. By finding a timely solution to this impasse, these participants can be assured that the state is making wise and purposeful decisions with their pension investments.

We strongly encourage that you and the Board give full and fair consideration to any reasonable proposal that would end this strike, which has affected not only the OPERS participants, but hotel employees. We believe that by ending this strike, OPERS can demonstrate sound decision making to protect the retirement benefits of Ohio's valued public employees.

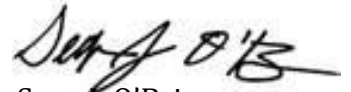
Sincerely,



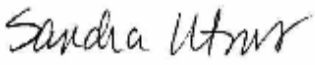
Kenny Yuko
Minority Leader
25th District



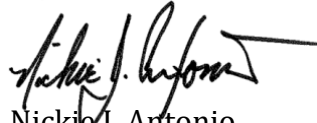
Cecil Thomas
Assistant Minority Leader
9th District



Sean J. O'Brien
Minority Whip
32nd District



Sandra Williams
Assistant Minority Whip
21st District



Nickie J. Antonio
State Senator
23rd District



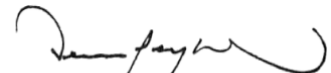
Hearcel Craig
State Senator
15th District



Teresa Fedor
State Senator
11th District



Tina Maharath
State Senator
3rd District



Vernon Sykes
State Senator
28th District