

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



815 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 637-5000
www.aflcio.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
PRESIDENT

Michael Sacco
Harold Schaitberger
William Hite
Fred Redmond
Fredric V. Rolando
D. Michael Langford
Bruce R. Smith
Loretta Johnson
Laura Reyes
Kenneth Rigmaiden
James Grogan
Dennis D. Williams
Lori Pelletier
Joseph Sellers Jr.

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Michael Goodwin
Clyde Rivers
Gregory J. Junemann
Matthew Loeb
Diann Woodard
Baldemar Velasquez
Lee A. Saunders
James Callahan
J. David Cox
Stuart Appelbaum
Paul Rinaldi
Cindy Estrada
Marc Perrone
Christopher Shelton

TEFERE GEBRE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Robert A. Scardelletti
Cecil Roberts
Nancy Wohlforth
Randy Weingarten
Patrick D. Finley
Ken Howard
Terry O'Sullivan
DeMaurice Smith
David Durkee
Harold Daggett
Mark Dimondstein
Capt. Timothy Canoll
Jorge Hamirez
Lonnie R. Stephenson

R. Thomas Bullenbarger
Loo W. Gerard
Rose Ann DeMoro
Rogelio "Roy" A. Flores
Newton B. Jones
James Boland
Lawrence J. Hanley
Sean McGarvey
D. Taylor
Bhalravi Desai
Harry Lombardo
Sara Nelson
Eric Dean

October 1, 2015

Ms. Portia Wu
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Re: Nomination by National Labor Federation to Workforce Information Advisory Council

Dear Ms. Wu:

The AFL-CIO nominates Ms. Chelsea Orvella of Seattle, Washington, to be the labor representative on the Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC). This nomination is made in response to Federal Register Notice 2015 – 19495 filed on August 7, 2015. Ms. Orvella would represent labor organizations and the voice of workers on the WIAC. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) specifies that the Council is to include one member who is a representative of labor organizations and has been nominated by a national labor federation. Ms. Orvella has agreed to be nominated and is willing to serve on the WIAC.

Ms. Orvella is highly qualified for this position and would contribute constructively to the Council's deliberations on improving the nation's workforce and labor market information systems. She has extensive experience working with state and local workforce and labor market information officials.

Evaluation and improvement of the system. As indicated by the attached biographical material, Ms. Orvella is legislative director of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), Local 2001 of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE). Her union has taken a leadership role among labor organizations in advocating that workforce and education policies – particularly those impacting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields – be more closely tied to comprehensive, timely and viable labor market data. SPEEA has worked with U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Maria Cantwell to add occupation information to Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records. SPEEA and Ms. Orvella have invested a substantial amount of time in understanding current Labor Market Information (LMI) resources, the nuances of inter-agency and state-federal data sharing, existing investments in longitudinal data collection, and the challenges and opportunities of requiring additional reporting by employers. Relationships have been developed across the country with LMI experts, stakeholder coalitions and agency officials. Ms. Orvella was invited to present at the Bureau of Labor Statistics OES Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., in September 2015. With this knowledge and these relationships, she can productively advise the Department and contribute to the development of an LMI management plan from the valuable perspective of workers and labor organizations impacted by the LMI system.

Department and state cooperation. Ms. Orvella is very familiar with the federal workforce development system and the implementation of WIOA at the state level. She co-chairs a Washington State WIOA implementation subcommittee focused on accountability and provider standards. This work requires a close look at the data available for federal and state program accountability and how that data is collected and used. Her work on this subcommittee requires an understanding of the roles of the Department and states in oversight and implementation. She recognizes the value of a productive state/federal relationship that includes shared objectives and unique interests. While the labor official on this sub-committee does not directly manage any LMI systems, Ms. Orvella can effectively advocate for thoughtful cooperation between the states and Department in LMI system management.

One of the primary issues concerning SPEEA members – engineers, scientists, technicians and other technical workers – is the expansion of the H-1B STEM visa program. Ms. Orvella has considerable first-hand experience working with laid-off workers in Washington state. She has also worked on immigration policy around high-tech temporary workers on H-1B visas. She has been an advocate for reforms that protect both American and foreign workers; policies that would tie future flow to independent market analysis; and better labor market data to track career trajectories for graduates of STEM programs. In the ongoing initiative to have an occupation field added to UI wage records, Ms. Orvella communicates regularly with LMI Directors across the country, the Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the National Skills Coalition, the Workforce Data Quality Campaign, the Census Bureau, the Department of Education, and others about the many nuances of education-to-workforce tracking.

Letter to Ms. Portia Wu

October 1, 2015

Page 3

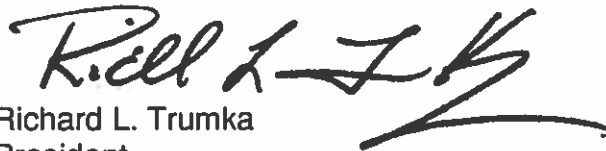
The AFL-CIO views the new WIAC as a potentially important tool to aid in attaining better data collection to determine actual labor shortages, if any, in the STEM fields. Where there are jobs to be filled, the WIAC will also be valuable in helping students, education systems, and workforce development organizations more precisely invest in the skill development needed by workers and industry. We are confident that Ms. Orvella will make a significant contribution to the work of the Council.

Contact information: Ms. Chelsea Orvella, Legislative Director, SPEEA IFPTE Local 2001, 15205 52nd Avenue S., Seattle, Washington 98188. Business phone: 206.674.7359. Fax number: 206.248.3990. Business email: chelseao@speea.org

The following documents are attached: copy of the nominee's biographical information and resume.

Please confirm that you have received this nomination. Let me know if there is any other information required. Thank you for your consideration of this nomination by the AFL-CIO, a national labor federation representing 56 national and international unions in North America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Trumka", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard L. Trumka
President

RLT/WS/lkr
Attachments

cc: Gregory J. Junemann, President, IFPTE
Jeffrey G. Johnson, President, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
David Freiboth, Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
William Samuels, AFL-CIO