

August 27, 2024

Liz Shuler, President
AFL-CIO
815 Black Lives Matter Plaza NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Shuler,

Following earlier attempts to reach you, we, together with Mark Dimondstein, had a promising telephone conversation in July about our long-standing proposal to fill *Labor Day* with local and national agenda-based events featuring a *COMPACT FOR AMERICAN LABOR*. Such a *Labor Day* would advance many long-overdue reforms to help working Americans. Candidates for public office and citizen groups would be invited to hundreds of events throughout the country.

Having little but commercial sales and routine un-newsworthy press releases extolling workers, the national and local media would welcome authentic efforts to uplift the livelihoods, rights and remedies of workers, that engage workers to give voice, especially in an election year!

Your reaction was immediate and galvanizing, reflecting a meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council in May where unanimous support was expressed after Mark Dimondstein described the proposal. We received similar support from a half-dozen major union leaders with whom we spoke.

Our telephone conversation with you concluded with an apparent understanding that there would be an announcement followed by the deployment of existing media and research capabilities and on-the-ground activities by union locals and their allies. Our role was simply to help with advice and leads – nothing more.

Up to now, we haven't heard back from you. The union leaders were looking to you to commence. So, we directed our calls, emails and missives to your office repeatedly, to no avail. Not a response or call back.

When we asked for an explanation, our sources within the AFL-CIO circle came back with a three-word answer: The Democratic Party. They want no part of any activities that they, driven by their corporate-conflicted political/media consultants, cannot control, much less did not conceive. It is well known that the AFL-CIO has taken its cues from Democratic Party operatives for many years.

We have many examples we can share with you about enthusiastic first contacts with Party staff from national to state levels suddenly going dark. The civic community – the reservoir of democracy and its fruits – has long been excluded by this Party and its profit-driven commercial gatekeepers.

Still, this most recent lack of a response by you puzzles us given your full enthusiasm for this proposed initiative. And why not? For organized labor, it is a win-win commitment, as it is for the vast majority of all workers not just union members. Even just focusing on taking the frozen \$7.25 per hour federal minimum wage to \$15 or more, as a front burner mission, would have been a defining issue for this Labor Day.

We are sharing this letter and the attached descriptions of what is meant by a real LABOR DAY with the media for whatever use they may make of this regrettable situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Nader', written in a cursive style.

Ralph Nader

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Enclosed:

- [*To Democrats: Make Labor Day A Workers' Action Day*](#) – August 17, 2022
- [*LABOR DAY 2024 – Massive Actions for Worker Livelihoods*](#) – July 25, 2024