

I.A.T.S.E.

Local 80

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October 21, 2013

Council President Herb Wesson
Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring Street, Rm 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 1/21/14
Submitted in PAW Committee
Council File No: 12-0186
Item No.: 2
Deputy: Adam R. Lid

RE: IATSE Union's Opposition to Council Item Number 12-0186, proposal to ban elephants in circuses

Dear Council President Wesson:

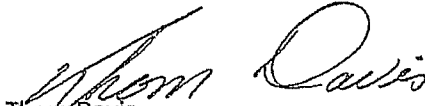
On behalf of IATSE and members and their families that we represent, we would like to express our strong opposition to proposed action to ban elephants in circuses (City Council Item Number 12-0186). We understand that there will be a discussion and a vote that takes place on October 23rd City Council meeting.

Our opposition to the proposed ban is based on a simple reason. This motion, without solid evidence of any wrongful actions on the part of the circuses, proposes to eliminate good middle class jobs. As you may already know, our members, along with the musicians, members of the American Federation of Musicians, are part of the production of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus. **My members' job will be eliminated.**

If you add UNITE-HERE Local 11 members who work the food/beverage and the concessions, along with the Teamsters Union parking lot attendants, over 1200 employees and over 40,000 hours of work at Staples Center will be adversely impacted. These numbers do not include another 310 direct employees of the circus. **This motion will be responsible for the elimination of about \$1 million dollars of direct wages** and benefits paid during the Ringling Bros and Barnum Baily Circus shows at the Staples Center.

In closing, given all these financial and job losses, we urge you to vote against motion and reject this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Thom Davis
Business Manager

CC: Los Angeles City Council Members