

SENATE RESOLUTION

8608

By Senators Kuderer, Conway, Van De Wege, Darneille, Randall, Rolfes, Nguyen, Wellman, Salomon, Das, Cleveland, Hunt, Frockt, Carlyle, Takko, Pedersen, Hasegawa, and Saldaña

1 WHEREAS, On February 6, 1919, sixty thousand union workers in  
2 Seattle became the first workers in American history to organize a  
3 nonviolent general strike; and

4 WHEREAS, Seattle's Central Labor Council of the American  
5 Federation of Labor had called on union workers to strike in support  
6 of shipyard workers who sought the right to collective bargaining;  
7 and more than one hundred labor unions agreed to participate in the  
8 General Strike of 1919; and

9 WHEREAS, A diverse coalition of union members from all walks of  
10 life, including women, African Americans, and the Japanese community  
11 all voted in favor of joining the strike in solidarity demonstrating  
12 the value of uniting diverse groups across occupational, racial, and  
13 political affiliations; and

14 WHEREAS, The union workers who participated in the Seattle  
15 General Strike showed the nation the power of organized labor and  
16 worker solidarity; and the Seattle General Strike laid the groundwork  
17 for the contemporary labor movement in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, The nation's workers represent the backbone of the  
19 American economy and have made the United States the most prosperous  
20 country in the world; and

21 WHEREAS, Wednesday, February 6, 2019, marks the one hundredth  
22 anniversary of the Seattle General Strike, a time when it was said  
23 that "*Nothing Moved But the Tide;*" and

1       WHEREAS, Several public events have been organized throughout the  
2 Centennial week by a coalition of museums, the Pacific Northwest  
3 Labor History Association, the University of Washington Labor  
4 Archives, and the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies; and

5       WHEREAS, The General Strike of 1919 has an enduring legacy that  
6 still shapes the labor movement today;

7       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the  
8 heritage of the labor movement in our state and the workers who  
9 participated in the Seattle General Strike of 1919, and honor the  
10 contributions they made to our country and our state.

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