

To: [REDACTED]

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**From:** Inform-c06 <[i\\_nform-c06-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu](mailto:i_nform-c06-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu)> **On Behalf Of** Merrell, Benjamin  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** Inform-C06 (Classified) <[i\\_nform-c06@lists.oregonstate.edu](mailto:i_nform-c06@lists.oregonstate.edu)>  
**Cc:** Siobhan Burke <[burkes@seiu503.org](mailto:burkes@seiu503.org)>  
**Subject:** [Inform-c06] Union Business: Please read on break

**Subject: In Response to the Latest Emails and Postcards from Freedom Foundation**

OSU is allowing the Freedom Foundation, a right-wing anti-worker organization, and FF's pet project, Opt Out Today, to send out email to every single person represented by SEIU. Freedom Foundation also uses public information requests to get your address and mail junk to your home.(1)

Our union leadership at OSU consists of volunteers who have regular jobs and do union work on the side. But because this is important, we want to take a few minutes to respond to FF's latest anti-union attacks.

First - please opt out of the OPT OUT emails. You can also tag these emails as "spam." [Here are Spam Filtering instructions.](#)

**1. Freedom Foundation lies.**

Our Union represents people in all political parties. **Virtually all our union's political work is not funded by union dues, but by a separate, voluntary fund called CAPE.** Members vote on how CAPE money is used, and usually it is spent supporting elected officials who support workers. You do have the option of removing all your dues money per month that goes towards political work, and those funds will go into a scholarship fund instead. Contact our organizer Siobhan Burke if you are interested in pursuing that. [burkes@seiu503.org](mailto:burkes@seiu503.org).

**2. SEIU's political endorsement process is driven by members.** Freedom Foundation is controlled by billionaires who are against not just unions, but what union workers have: retirement funds, health insurance and job security.

Freedom Foundation is a member of the [State Policy Network](#). (2) It bills itself as a "think tank," but it is well-known for advancing aggressive techniques to dismantle unions. It is funded in part by the [Bradley Foundation](#) and the [Charles Koch Foundation](#).

Freedom Foundation IS spending on the election, but they are protected from disclosing their donors or what they spend \$ on. In contrast, labor unions follow strict federal laws governing how they spend union dues.

*"These nonprofit groups, which do not have to report any donor information to the public, can receive unlimited contributions from any source and, thanks to the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision, spend unlimited amounts on elections..." (3)*

As we go to the bargaining table later this year to bargain alternatives to layoffs, please [recommit to your membership](#) or ask a coworker to join. Every membership makes us stronger at the bargaining table.

We are also going back to the bargaining table on the entire contract starting next year. The bargaining team is asking YOU to fill out your bargaining survey now. The last question is open-ended. Your name will only be shared with the bargaining delegate, Gloria O'Brien, and she will keep it 100% confidential.

Fill it out and share with your coworkers: Bargaining Survey Link:  
[https://seiu503.tfaforms.net/653?tfa\\_516=a404N000000J17Y](https://seiu503.tfaforms.net/653?tfa_516=a404N000000J17Y)

Want to get more involved in our union, contact your local steward, officer, or contact organizer Siobhan Burke at [burkes@seiu503.org](mailto:burkes@seiu503.org) or 630-699-09281.

And please ...

Save the Date! Our next union meeting will be: Monday, November 9 from noon-1. We will send out information on this email list soon!

Please contact us with any questions.

In unity,

SEIU Sub-local 083 Leadership

- (1) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/10/union-killers-freedom-foundation>
- (2) [https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Freedom\\_Foundation](https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Freedom_Foundation)
- (3) <https://www.thestand.org/2020/02/freedom-foundation-you-disclose-not-us/>