



**POLITICAL SUPPORT GROWS FOR OPEIU 39 WORKERS AT CUNA MUTUAL GROUP:
CITY, COUNTY PASS RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING UNION WORKERS AT CMG**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2023 – The Madison Common Council unanimously passed a resolution last night supporting OPEIU 39 union workers at CUNA Mutual Group (CMG). The resolution mirrors another, RES-371, that was passed at the Dane County Board last week, 24-1. The resolution, *“Supporting Bargaining Between OPEIU Local 39 and CUNA Mutual Group”*, was introduced by Alder Yvette Figueroa-Cole and co-sponsored by alders Jael Currie, Mike Verveer, Keith Furman, Sabrina Madison, Brian Benford, Sherri Carter, Juliana Bennett, Charles Myadze, Erik Paulson, Barbara Vedder, and Barbara Harrington-McKinney.

Political support has been growing since OPEIU Local 39 filed multiple unfair labor practice claims (ULPs) with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in February. The Union has charged that CMG is not bargaining in good faith, refusing to meet with the Union since December 2022, and has been unlawfully obstructing the bargaining process. On March 14th, CMG placed the Union’s Chief Steward, Joe Evica, on paid suspension for alleged “misuse of company information”. The company’s disciplinary investigation may lead to termination. The Union has stated that discipline directed at Mr. Evica is retaliation for his union activities and role as a leader.

Wisconsin State Representatives has also gotten involved. On Monday, March 20th, 2023 a group of eleven Assembly Representatives and Senators co-signed a letter sent to CMG’s CEO, Bob Trunzo. The letter voices support for the Union’s remaining bargaining items and presses CMG to engage in good faith bargaining.

“We write to urge CUNA Mutual Group to resume, and to engage in, good faith bargaining with OPEIU 39. As elected leaders, we represent our communities, which are strongly pro-labor and pro-economic prosperity. As advocates for fair labor practices, we believe all workers should have the right to come together and secure a fair agreement via collective bargaining... We urge you to negotiate a fair and mutually beneficial contract with OPEIU 39. By doing so, you will not only benefit your workers, but you will also strengthen CUNA Mutual and contribute to the overall success of our local and state economy.”

The letter is signed by Representatives Francesca Hong, Lisa Subeck, Alex Joers, Lisa Ratcliff, Mike Bare, Jimmy Anderson, and Shelia Stubbs, as well as State Senators Melissa Agard, Diane Hesselbein, Mark Spreitzer, and Kelda Roys.

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