Wage theft is not just an economic issue – it’s a moral issue.

- **When the least of us are suffering, all of us are responsible.**
  “Thou shall not steal” is one of the most important tenants of many faiths, and our government should not allow it to happen in federal buildings. In Genesis when Cain slew Abel and was confronted by God he replied "Am I my brother's keeper?" This was because he knew that he had disrupted the community, but more germane to our context is the fact that he knew he was actually connected to what happened to other members of the community. Just as Cain was his brother’s keeper so are we called to be accountable for our brothers and sisters well economically as well as socially.

- **The government should afford the same protections to the “have nots” that it affords to the “have gots”.** The government is exacerbating inequality though contracting, paying millions to contractors who are stealing wages and mistreating their workers. The bible deals with these corruptions this way: "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly." Leviticus 19:15. This should encourage our government to more adequately bridge the gap between these two disparate groups; not widen it because of the convenience.

- **A healthy economy depends on businesses paying enough for workers to afford the basics.** Unfortunately, the fastest growing jobs in the United States are also the lowest paid, with millions of workers at profitable corporations unable to afford necessities like food, clothing, and rent. And yet God says in the Book of James: “Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.” Is it fair to say that our economy is out of whack because the laborers are being defrauded?

- **And our country’s largest low-wage job creator is actually the federal government,** with a hidden low-wage workforce of nearly two million workers employed under federal contracts, loans, leases, and grants. This is in direct conflict with the command to love your neighbor as yourself as stated in Romans 13:8-10. Considering the fact that congresspersons make $174,000 per year as a minimum salary and state representatives make a minimum of $49,000 it becomes necessary to question more intensely whether this is what the bible means when defining how we are to treat our neighbor.
• **It's unacceptable that this is happening on federal property.** This is unacceptable because Proverbs 14:31 states: “Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.” God made the men and women who are affected by these heinous policies and practices and the insult of the abuse on these properties are in direct adversity to God’s nature.

• **The federal government shouldn’t be doing business with law-breakers.** The government has a responsibility to ensure taxpayer-funded contracts don't hurt the economy, but instead help the economy by paying living wages so workers can provide for their families. Psalm 1:1 tells us that “Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.” The United States is striving for freedom. In that striving our government, which was designed to represent the wishes of the people, must distance itself from the poor counsel of these law-breakers as much as is possible.

• **Washington, DC, home to many of these workers, is the capital of income inequality in this country, and contracting has only exacerbated the problem.** While high-income jobs, like those for CEOs, and low-income jobs, like these federally-funded jobs, have increased, middle-class jobs that can support a family are on the decline. We do not want the United States to go the way of the Roman Empire in declining because of a failure to deal with challenges to the societal structure. Is it unreasonable to expect Washington D.C., as our nation’s capital, to give the rest of the country a standard to live up to as opposed to an issue to disdain?

• **Let us continue to join together to call on the federal government—and President Obama—to take executive action to guarantee that workers earn a living wage and that federal contracts aren’t awarded to companies that break the law and hurt our economy.**