



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

A Litany for Labor Justice

Leader: **When the least of us are suffering, all of us are responsible.**

People: “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?” Just as Cain was his brother’s keeper so are we called to be accountable for our brothers’ and sisters’ well-being economically as well as socially.

Leader: **The government should afford the same protections to the “have nots” that it affords to the “have gots”.**

People: The government is exacerbating inequality though contracting, paying millions to contractors who are stealing wages and mistreating their workers.

Leader: **A healthy economy depends on businesses paying enough for workers to afford the basics.**

People: 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.

Leader: **And our country’s largest low-wage job creator is actually the federal government.**

People: With a hidden low-wage workforce of nearly two million workers employed under federal contracts, loans, leases, and grants.

Leader: **It’s unacceptable that this is happening on federal property.**

People: 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.

Leader: **The federal government shouldn’t be doing business with law-breakers.**

People: 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.

Leader: **Washington, DC, home to many of these workers, is the capital of income inequality in this country, and contracting has only exacerbated the problem.**

People: 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.

ALL: **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.**