

# Washington Policy Center does not represent greater Spokane

## Dear Friends,

As Spokane-area voters, workers, business people, civic leaders and faith leaders, we reject the divisive political agenda the Washington Policy Center is promoting in our community.

The Washington Policy Center has flown in controversial ex-Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for a paid political event in Spokane. Walker is notorious for his attacks on public schools, the environment and workers' rights — attacks that are out of sync with the values of Spokane-area residents.

The Washington Policy Center is attempting to spread that same divisive national agenda here in the Spokane region. We oppose their attempts to influence our community. The Washington Policy Center is not the independent "think tank" it claims to be, but a political operation that promotes the interests of the ultra-wealthy at the expense of the rest of us.

In our opinion, the Washington Policy Center is not fully open and transparent about its funding, but it is clear that it is bankrolled by out-of-state corporate interests, foundations and billionaires to promote a national political agenda that is harmful to Spokane-area families and our economy.

The Washington Policy Center's outsider agenda includes:

- Privatizing public education by diverting local public school funding to private organizations
- Weakening environmental protections, sacrificing clean air and water
- Restricting workers' right to advocate for fair pay and working conditions, making it harder to support our families

AFSCME Council 28/WFSE

Ara Lyman, Owner, Spokane Yoga Shala

Audra Shaw, President, Cheney Education Association

Autumn Reed, President, Spokane Chapter, National Organization for Women, NOW

Ben Stuckart, President, Spokane City Council

Bob Adolfsen, Owner and Operator, The Glover Mansion

Brean Beggs, Member, Spokane City Council

Brett Wideman, Business Mgr, Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 44

Carla Naccarato-Sinclair, President, Community Colleges of Spokane/AHE (faculty union)

Chad Brayton, President, Mead Combined Trades Association

Cheri Stockman, President, West Valley Spokane Education Association

Cheryl A. Miller, Union Representative, Teamsters Local 117

Cheryl Demke, President, Deer Park Education Association

Council 2, Washington State Council of County and City Employees AFSCME AFL-CIO

Dana Oxford, Operator, Niche Coworking

Ed Wood, Chair, and Jac Archer, Vice Chair, Spokane County Democrats\*

Eric Renner, President, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1439

Georgina Redmond, Co-President, East Valley of Spokane Education Association

Glenn Ward, Owner, BumbleBar Inc. Greater Spokane Progress

International Assoc of Firefighters, L876, Spokane Valley

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 242

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW Local 73

James Garrett, Secretary/Field Representative, Int'l Union of Operating Engineers Local 302

Jeanine Coghlan, Co-President, East Valley of Spokane Education Association

Jerry E. LeClaire, MD

Jim Bannister, President, Nine Mile Falls Education Association

Jim Dawson, Program Director, Fuse Washington

Jim Sheehan, Civic Leader

Joe Sheehan, Operator, The Magic Lantern Theater, LLC

John Morse, Financial Sec-Treas and Business Manager, Ironworkers Local 14

Joseph Hancock, President, Washington Federation of State Employees Local 1221\*

Kate Burke, Member, Spokane City Council

Katy Henry, President, Spokane Education Association

Kurtis Robinson, President, Spokane NAACP #1137 and Criminal Justice Chair, Alaska Oregon WA State - Area Conference

Liz Moore, Executive Director, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Local 270 AFSCME, Spokane City Employees

Lori Kinnear, Member, Spokane City Council

Mandy Manning, 2018 National Teacher of the Year

Marcus Riccelli, State Representative, 3rd Legislative District

Maureen Ramos, Past President, Spokane Education Association

Michael Conlin, President, United Faculty of Eastern, AFT/NEA

Mike Allen, President, Freeman Education Association

Mike Dunn, Superintendent, NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101\*

Nikki Lockwood, School Equity Advocate

Northeastern Washington - Northern Idaho Building and Construction Trades Council

Pastor Walter Kendricks, President, Ministerial Fellowship of Spokane

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Greater Washington and North Idaho

Rebecca MacMullan, Co-Chair, 350 Spokane

Rev. Jonathan Myers, Vicar, West Central Episcopal Mission and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Robbi Anthony, Owner, Firedove Technology

Roofers Local 189

Ryan Grant, President, Medical Lake Education Association

Scott Holstrom, Business Mgr/ Sec. Treas, Local 238 of Laborers International Union of North America

SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

Sheli Brown, President, Nine Mile Falls Classified Public Employees Association

Spokane Alliance

Spokane Community Against Racism

Spokane Indivisible

Spokane Regional Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Spokane Veterans for Peace

Steve Biljan, President, Riverside Education Association

Steve Powers, Sub-District Director, United Steelworkers District 12 Sub-District 3

Susan Young, Executive Board Member, Service Employees International Union Local 775, *the caregivers union*

Teamsters Local Union #690

Teodora Bernadeta Baba, President, Teinnovadora Trade Company

The Rev. Debra L. Conklin, United Methodist Pastor, Chaplain, The Oak Tree

The Reverend Rick Matters (Episcopal)

Thomas Leighty, President/Business Agent, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1015

Tim Archer, President, Spokane Firefighters Local 29

Toby Doolittle, President, Mead Education Association

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21

Upper Columbia River Group, Sierra Club

Vicky Jensen, President, WEA Eastern Washington

Wally Watson, President, Central Valley Education Association

Wanda Emmert, President, Inland Empire Area Local 338, American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO



*Washington Policy Center speaker Scott Walker is notorious for his attacks on public schools, the environment and workers' rights*

Simply put, the Washington Policy Center doesn't represent greater Spokane.

As residents of the Spokane region, we do not need or want out-of-state politicians, billionaires and groups like the Washington Policy Center telling us what's best for our community or deciding which public policies we enact.

Unlike the groups funding the Washington Policy Center, we live here, and we actually care about what happens here. Our vision for the Inland Empire is a positive one — one in which all of us work together as a community to decide our future and that lifts up all of us.

We, the undersigned Spokane-area individuals and groups, are committed to working together to create a stronger, healthier, economically successful community for all of the residents of greater Spokane. We call on Greater Spokane, Inc., to join with us and not to co-sponsor divisive events such as the Washington Policy Center's Solutions Summit.