

May 8, 2014  
NW14-009

To: Northwest Council Members  
From: NW Legislative and Public Affairs Committee  
Subject: **GENERAL ORDER: Support for Musicians (AFM) Union.**

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### **Background**

Over the past decade US musician employment in on-air broadcasting, sound or video recording has declined by 22%. This decline is the result of off-shoring of post-production work. Corporations like Lionsgate Entertainment receive tax incentives from Washington to attract filming which has no State requirements to include post-production work be done domestically.

Causational; we end up paying more at the box office while subsidizing multi-million dollar companies which ship more American jobs overseas. The American Federation of Musicians (AFM), AFL-CIO has agreements with the American Motion Picture and Television Producers who represent film and television studios. Some well known studios are Columbia Pictures, Metro-Goldwyn Mayer (MGM) Picture, Paramount Pictures, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Universal City Studios, Walt Disney Pictures & Television, and Warner Brothers.

Many of the independent studios that make current films and television programs, including Lionsgate, are not affiliated with major studios and not signatories to the AFM contract. Lionsgate receives tens of millions in tax breaks from local, state and federal governments, while 90% of their films in 2011-2013 had film scoring done offshore.

The off-shoring of soundtrack scoring for just four Lionsgate films between 2008 and 2010 resulted in a total loss of lifetime compensation estimated at \$10 million for thousands of US musicians, which included in the result of no payment into AFM retirement and health plans.

The AFM, with support from the AFL-CIO, has initiated a national "Listen Up!" campaign to pressure Lionsgate to adhere to industry standards for musicians, as they have with other entertainment unions.

Petition for SPEEA to advertise via email and webpage.

[http://afl.salsalabs.com/o/5873/c/777/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=8337](http://afl.salsalabs.com/o/5873/c/777/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8337) .

This Motion was passed by the Martin Luther King County Labor Council on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### **NW L&PA Committee Recommendation**

The NW Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommends' passage of this motion.

### **MOTION**

**It is moved that THE NW SPEEA council hereby supports the "Listen Up!" campaign, and will encourage its members to sign the AFM's on-line petition in support of the campaign, at**

[http://afl.salsalabs.com/o/5873/c/777/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=8337](http://afl.salsalabs.com/o/5873/c/777/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8337)

#### **Pro's**

- SPEEA members will benefit from the increased public awareness of the damaging effects of forced tax payer supported out sourcing of jobs.

#### **Con's**

- It may not pressure the companies to stop the outsourcing of jobs.