



**Association of Employees of the Educational Foundation
Communications Workers of America Local 1300**

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For Immediate Release

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WGBH Ends Collective Bargaining Joins Wisconsin in Refusing to Bargain with Its Workers

Boston- March 1, 2011--WGBH was widely condemned by its workers and community allies today for walking away from the negotiating table. Despite numerous unresolved issues remaining on the table, WGBH management presented AEEF/CWA Local 1300 (the station's largest union) with their final offer, effectively short-circuiting the collective bargaining process. Workers have been trying for six months to negotiate with the publicly funded non-profit with little success and are stunned by the hard-line tactics taken by management.

Ultimately, the workers attribute the station's unwillingness to bargain to WGBH Executive Vice President and former Romney campaign official, Ben Godley's desire to follow in the footsteps of Wisconsin Governor Walker and de-unionize the station. "Ironically, while WGBH justifiably fights right-wing attempts in Washington to cut federal funding for public broadcasting, it is using right-wing tactics at its headquarters in Brighton to bust its union of 300 dedicated professionals," said Russ Davis of Massachusetts Jobs with Justice.

"We share WGBH's concerns about potential cuts in federal funding for public broadcasting. But our goal is to preserve good, local, union jobs at a financially stable WGBH. Adequate federal funding and a fair contract are critical to achieving this," said Jordan Weinstein, AEEF/CWA Local 1300 president. "While WGBH justifiably turns to generous viewers and listeners for financial contributions," Weinstein said, "it is using those donations to hire anti-union consultants to help bust its largest and oldest union. We'd expect this from the Governor of Wisconsin, not the people whose programs include Between the Lions, NOVA, Frontline and Masterpiece."

Workers will be voting on whether or not to reject the contract within the next two weeks. WGBH's final offer includes the ability to subcontract any and all work without negotiations, terminate on-air talent without cause, and prohibit workers from taking actions to advocate for themselves during the contract.

About AEEF/CWA Local 1300

The Association of Employees of the Educational Foundation was founded in 1971 to ensure the fair treatment and protection of WGBH employees. Affiliated in 2002 with the Communications Workers of America, AEEF/CWA Local 1300 represents nearly 300 employees at WGBH, 35 percent of all employees, across all professions and job titles. Our members work in Boston, Woods Hole, and Los Angeles.

About Massachusetts Jobs with Justice

Massachusetts Jobs with Justice is a coalition of over 110 community, religious, and labor organizations working to promote and protect workers' rights.