



STATE HEADQUARTERS
 1212 JEFFERSON ST., SUITE 300
 OLYMPIA, WA 98501
 PHONE: (360) 352-7603
 FAX: (360) 352-7608
 E-mail: tim@wfse.org
 Internet: www.wfse.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Union asks state to reinstate employees fired for refusing to pay fair share fees

CONTACTS: Greg Devereux, Executive Director, (360) 352-7603; Tim Welch, Director of Public Affairs, (360) 352-7603, cell (360) 481-5092.

The Washington Federation of State Employees has asked the state to reinstate all employees who had been terminated for refusing to pay dues or fees they owe under "fair share" union security provisions in the Federation's contracts that took effect in July 2005.

The union is also asking the state to make no further terminations at this time.

The union called for the reinstatement and moratorium on terminations while it corrects several technical mistakes in a notice sent in May 2005 to all 38,000 state employees covered by Federation contracts. It delivered the formal request Tuesday afternoon to the state Labor Relations Office.

The technical mistakes center on the union's notice of expenditures that explains which expenditures are germane to collective bargaining or representation activities and which are not.

For example, while the May 2005 notice correctly informed employees that the breakdown of expenditures had been verified by an independent auditor, the auditor's formal certification to that effect should have been included in the notice.

Because of the defects in that notice, the Federation will be sending out a corrected notice for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. This corrected notice will give fee payers a renewed opportunity to file objections. And that has prompted the union's request to reinstate terminated employees and make no further terminations pending distribution of the corrected notice.

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