

# SITO PANTOJA OFFICIALLY ENDORSES MS. IAN SCOTT-ANDERMAN FOR IAM GST

2-12-21

Dear IAM Member,



I am formally announcing my support for Ms. Ian Scott-Anderman's candidacy for General Secretary Treasurer (GST) of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). I believe Ian is the best person to reform our great union's finances and restore integrity to the IAM GST's office. She has the courage and integrity to root out pockets of corruption in our union without favoritism and to reduce the crippling burden of a 30 percent contribution level imposed on IAM members' district and local lodges to fund the IAM Staff Retirement plan for every participant at every level of our union. Perhaps, and most importantly, she has the courage to restore the letter and spirit of democracy in our union, which we need now more than ever.

As many of you know, I came to this country with my parents many years ago to escape a Communist dictatorship where dissent was punishable by firing squad. Families of those who spoke out against the regime were fired from their jobs, lost their food rations or worse.

I believed then as I do now that America was the promised land. I grew up to believe that America represented democracy. That America granted every person to speak out against government mismanagement, corruption and the freedom to vote in a secret ballot election with the results respected. I believed as a child, as I do now, that America was the land of opportunity and the greatest nation on earth because it was a true democracy. That is why I was so shaken to see our nation's Capitol, the Cathedral of our Democracy, assaulted by those who were literally out for blood, intent on overturning an election and our democracy. It reminded me of how fragile our democracy is and how we have to do all in our power, no matter the sacrifice, to defend it.

However, democracy is not only threatened by ruthless dictators, angry mobs or crooked politicians. It is also threatened by unethical union officers who retaliate against those who oppose them. Democracy is threatened by punishing those who want reform. It is threatened by those who want to silence IAM members who will no longer tolerate Dora Cervantes' continued mismanagement of the GST Department and want real change.

By now, many of you know that because of my support for Ms Ian Scott-Anderman, current IAM

District 142 Secretary Treasurer, my Chief of Staff, Joe Tiberi, has been removed and demoted; Elected union officers have been contacted and told to stop supporting Ian Scott-Anderman or suffer personal and professional consequences. And, recently a letter was issued threatening all Grand Lodge (GLR) and Special Representatives (SR) in the Transportation Department stating that they are being investigated for disloyalty. The letter was signed by the International President but was clearly orchestrated by the Cervantes campaign. The letter states , in so many words, that GLRs and SRs may be terminated for their failure to support Cervantes.

Does this type of intimidation live up to the principles of American democracy? Does this behavior by our top union officials demonstrate that the IAM is the most democratic union as some at the top levels of our union continually boast?

I am sad to say that the heavy-handed, intimidating and misguided behavior of Cervantes and some others at the top levels of our union is the opposite of democracy. They are behaving like some of the worst management people that our great union fights on a daily basis. They have established a clear pattern of punishing dissent with the goal of making the entire IAM membership fearful that if they don't vote for Cervantes bad things will happen to them. This is what happens in a dictatorship, not a democratic union.

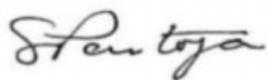
If they think threatening the elected officers in the Transportation Department or by hurting my dear friend and Chief of Staff, Joe Tiberi, and his family by removing and demoting him they are very wrong. If they think threatening the GLRs and SRs in the Transportation Department, who have served IAM members so well, will get me to bend to their will, they don't know me. Believe me, I have been through much worse.

I wanted this letter to the membership publicly posted so there is no doubt that I am committed to Ian's election as the IAM's next GST, no matter the political costs. I am at the point of no return.

Ian's courage, and those of you who support her, to speak truth to power, no matter the consequences, has been remarkable to me and she has my full and unwavering support, as do you. If we show the courage that she has shown until the end, democracy will win.

God Bless You. God Bless this Union!

Sincerely and in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sito Pantoja". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sito Pantoja