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Globalization, economic inequality and immigration have deeply impacted our past, present and future. Amidst increasing attacks on workers' rights, trade unions and immigrants and with St. Patrick's Day swiftly approaching, we have invited the largest trade union in Ireland, The Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union. SIPTU represents over 180,000 workers from virtually every category of employment across almost every sector of the country's economy.

We are writing to extend an invitation to you to join us at the 32BJ headquarters, 25 W. 18th St. in New York City, Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm for a panel discussion. It will include representatives from Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU) of Ireland, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), including Mary Kay Henry-SEIU Int'l President, as well as selected elected officials and various stakeholders.

Since its foundation, SIPTU has played a leading role in a number of campaigns to improve workers' rights including a quadrupling of minimum statutory redundancy payments for workers losing their jobs, the establishment of the National Employment Rights Authority and the outlawing of mass redundancies by employers trying to replace existing workers with lower paid non-union labor. The Union remains committed to its dictum that 'An injury to One is the Concern of All' and pursuing its twin objectives of Fairness at Work and Justice in Society. This year also commemorates the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland, a significant attempt at attaining the country's independence, and the movement's leadership by James Connolly.

This discussion will be hosted by 32BJ's president Hector Figueroa and open to the press. The general focus of the discussion will be on the following:

- The role of labor in shaping the policies and politics of Ireland and the United States.
- The current impact of globalization, economic inequality, and labor force migration on our two nations.
- Global models for cooperation between unions and elected officials of both nations to address these challenges. For example: the recent partnership between SEIU32BJ and the SIPTU Manufacturing Division on pharmaceutical companies, global service sector organizing in fast food and airports, tax relocations by international corporations and immigration policy.

We greatly hope you will accept this invitation and look forward to this important discussion.

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Hector Figueroa  
President, SEIU 32BJ