



By U.S. Mail and Email

October 5, 2016

Mr. Peter Ward
President
New York Hotel and Motel Trades Council, AFL-CIO
707 Eighth Avenue
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Ward:

My name is Scott Peterson, and I'm the executive director of [Checks and Balances Project](#) – a national watchdog blog that focuses on accountability for lobbyists, government officials and others who block the growth of a sustainable economy.

It is clear to us that citizens must have options in how they help to build a sustainable future. Participation in the growth of the sharing economy is one of them.

At the prompting of some of our readers, we began to look into efforts by the hotel lobby to stop the growth of [home sharing-based travel](#). Our initial reporting in this area suggests that you, as a labor leader, have taken the lead position in New York against home sharing on behalf of the hotel lobby.

We are hoping you will consent to answer a few simple questions to further our readers' understanding of this situation.

They are:

1. What is the process you use for determining the positions your members want you to take on issues such as home sharing?
2. What is the average yearly income of your members who clean hotel rooms for a living?
3. Is your current staff at your union organized, as is common at other labor organizations?
4. If not, has there ever been an effort by your employees to organize themselves?

Thank you for taking the time to address these questions so we can share your answers with our readers.

Regards,

Scott Peterson
Executive Director