

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2023

Sophie Bellon
Chairwoman of the Board and CEO
Sodexo Group
255 Quai de la Bataille de Stalingrad
92866 Issy-Les-Moulineaux
Cedex 9 - France

John C. Williams
President and CEO
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
33 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10045

Dear Ms. Bellon and Dr. Williams:

I am writing to express my support for the food service workers of UNITE HERE Local 100 (Unite Here) as they take the next step in negotiating a new contract. For more than a full year, these workers – who perform critical food service work in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (NY Fed) facility – have been attempting to negotiate a new contract with their employer Sodexo Group (Sodexo). Now that Sodexo will reportedly be joining Unite Here at the bargaining table tomorrow, I urge Sodexo to negotiate in good faith with its workers and to reach a contract that guarantees them a livable wage. Furthermore, I urge the NY Fed to utilize all tools at its disposal as Sodexo's client to guarantee these workers a fair and just contract.

Reports indicate that after cancelling bargaining earlier this month, Sodexo will resume negotiations on a new contract with its workers.¹ Since NY Fed food service workers' previous collective bargaining agreement with Sodexo expired in February 2022, they have faced an uphill battle as they have sought to negotiate a new contract.² The process culminated in a unanimous vote last week to authorize a strike that finally brought Sodexo to the bargaining table in earnest.³ Workers' primary demand – and a key driver of the strike vote – has been an increase in their minimum wage to \$20 per hour to account for the rise in the cost of living since their last wage increase in March 2021.⁴ I am glad that Sodexo has reportedly committed to meeting workers' demand for a \$20 per hour minimum wage,⁵ but it is critical that this commitment be reflected in a competitive collective bargaining agreement.

Sodexo is not alone in its obligation to engage productively with its food service workers: as Sodexo's client and the facility in which these workers perform their jobs, the NY Fed has the tools and the institutional mandate to help address their concerns. The NY Fed can express its

¹ Politico, "Labor strife hits the heart of the Federal Reserve: the cafeteria," Victoria Guida, March 9, 2023, <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/09/as-fed-ponders-rate-hikes-worker-power-simmers-in-its-own-backyard-00086318>; Information on file with the Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren.

² *Id.*; The Chief-Leader, "Cafeteria workers with Unite local authorize strike," Duncan Freeman, March 10, 2023, <https://www.thechiefleader.com/stories/cafeteria-workers-with-unite-local-authorize-strike.49979>.

³ Politico, "Labor strife hits the heart of the Federal Reserve: the cafeteria," Victoria Guida, March 9, 2023, <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/09/as-fed-ponders-rate-hikes-worker-power-simmers-in-its-own-backyard-00086318>

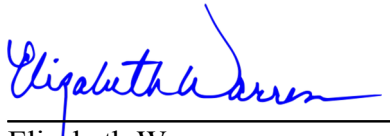
⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

support for the workers through public statements or private discussions with Sodexo leadership and managers. The NY Fed has a commitment to these essential food service workers that serve it every day, and we urge the NY Fed to demonstrate that commitment by supporting these workers as they negotiate for a fair contract.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator