November 4, 2022

Michael Drake, President
University of California
Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: UAW Labor Contract Negotiation

Dear President Drake,

Early in my career, I had the privilege to serve with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) conducting elections and investigating unfair labor practice charges throughout Southern California. Based on that service, I have the utmost respect for the hard work and dedicated effort of those who promote the rights of workers, as protected in the National Labor Relations Act and similar State statutes. I write to you today with concern regarding the state of negotiations between the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural (UAW) union, representing over 48,000 members, and the Regents of the University of California.

As the major employer and incubator of many ancillary businesses, the University of California at Riverside is a vital and vibrant contributor to Inland Southern California. The high level of innovation and academic excellence performed by UC employees is an innumerable contribution to the quality of our students’ education and to the vitality of our local community, and a disruption to these efforts will most definitely have an immediate and negative impact on our region. That said, it is certainly of concern that of the 20 Unfair Labor Complaints filed by the UAW alleging interference in the lawful process of arbitration that the PERB has now issued three separate complaints, with others pending. I would certainly hope and fully expect, given our State’s world renowned University system, that the University will ensure that the process in which these issues are litigated will be a fair and speedy one, designed to resolve the issues with minimal disruption and in full compliance with the law; and, that the University will, at all times, strive to protect and respect the workers involved.

The constituents of Senate District 31, which I represent, rely heavily on the critical ecosystem supported by UC Riverside and its role in the economic and social development of our region. Thank you for your consideration and I welcome the opportunity to further discuss this matter with you at your convenience.

Respectfully,

RICHARD D. ROTH
Senator, 31st District