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November 22, 2022

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

RE: UC Academic Workers' campus-wide strike

Dear President Drake,

As the historic strike of the University of California's 48,000 academic workers enters into its second week, I write to emphatically express my support for the women and men walking picket lines across all ten UC campuses and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. I implore you to negotiate with the UAW's four bargaining units representing these workers in good faith, and to resolve differences that remain so they can continue in their contribution to the University's core mission of teaching, research, and public service.

UC is the best public university in the world. As we both agree, these workers—Academic Researchers, Postdoctoral Scholars, Academic Student Employees, Student Researchers, Fellows, Instructors, Readers and Tutors—are vital to its day-to-day function and continued success. I recognize that meeting the demands being made at the bargaining table will come at a cost. But honoring our academic workers by providing industry-leading fair compensation, job security, and essential resources to survive California's high cost of living is quite simply long overdue.

I join with a great many of my Legislative and Congressional colleagues by encouraging UC to lead by example, and to honor the extraordinary value of our academic workers by resolving this strike in a manner which we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

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

Buffy Wicks
Assemblymember, 15th District