The San Francisco Central Labor Council pledge to refuse Marriott’s Green Choice

WHEREAS, Marriott’s Make a Green Choice or Your Choice is a program which offers hotel guests loyalty points or vouchers for skip housekeeping services they’ve already paid for; and

WHEREAS, the Green Choice program hurts housekeepers; and

WHEREAS, the so-called green program saves Marriott millions of dollars in labor costs; and

WHEREAS, housekeepers and other negatively impacted hotel workers lose shifts and can be cut from the schedule altogether as a result of the Green Choice program. The ripple effect of this loss of hours can be seen in potential loss of benefits including healthcare for the worker and their entire family if insufficient hours are worked in a week or month; and

WHEREAS, housekeepers report pain, injury, and difficulty cleaning dirtier rooms that are left un-serviced for days. These rooms take longer and require more chemicals to clean; and

WHEREAS, it isn’t that green, possibly taking advantage of customers who use the program out of sincere concern for our environment; and

WHEREAS, no leading environmental studies recommend skipping housekeeping as a sustainable option; and

WHEREAS, national and international environmental organizations are calling on the Marriott to develop a real sustainability program: the Union of Concerned Scientists, in a 2018 letter to Marriott International wrote, “As the largest hotel company in the world, Marriott can and should pursue greening hotels with the mutual goal of providing fair and safe labor practices. That would be real leadership;” and

WHEREAS, Sierra Club, the nation’s leading conservation organization said “Sierra Club views the Green Choice program to be a form of greenwashing. By presenting a labor cost-saving measure as a sustainability program, Marriott risks undermining consumer trust in proven sustainability programs aimed at customers... Sierra Club will refuse the Green Choice program until Marriott
develops genuine green programs that respect workers; disrupting schedules of working people is not a sustainability measure;” and

WHEREAS, housekeepers are predominantly working women, often immigrant women of color working in San Francisco’s tourism industry, which brought in $10.1 billion in total tourism spending in 2018.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the San Francisco Central Labor Council and its affiliates support UNITE HERE’s program to Refuse Marriott’s Green Choice. The Council joins with other customers and organizations who are refusing Marriott’s Green Choice program and calls on the Marriott to develop a true sustainability program that does not hurt housekeepers. In doing so, the Council commits to decline the Green Choice program when it books rooms or events at Marriott hotels.