Thank you for inviting me on today

1. Thank you for your support to our membership over the past 1.5 yrs. As you know, workers in our industry are still reeling from the impact of COVID, thousands of our members remain unemployed and those who are currently working are experiencing the heaviest workloads they’ve ever had and are dealing with the very, very real challenges of working safely during a pandemic.

1. The past 1.5 years has been incredibly hard, but we have had these moments before after 9/11 and during the Great Recession. And the companies are doing the same thing now that they did in those moments. They are making harsh labor cuts and profiting on squeezing our labor. In this current moment, hotels and casinos are cutting service like food & beverage, not reopening restaurants, but the cut that will be most expansive is the elimination of automatic daily housekeeping.

1. Hilton had $2.4 billion in cash on hand as of March. Last year it added 47,000 new rooms to its portfolio. And CEO Chris Nassetta made $56 million in 2020 – double his pay in 2019.

1. So Hilton’s set for a comeback – but it’s making cutbacks to services that guests want and to jobs that families need.

It's simple. If you’re not cleaning so-called “stayover” rooms, that’s fewer rooms to clean. And fewer rooms to clean means fewer jobs for housekeepers – forever.

Hilton is clear on this point. Hilton CEO Chris Nassetta told investor in February that “particularly in the areas of housekeeping, when we get out of the crisis, hotels will require less labor than they did pre-COVID.”

1. Hilton elimination of automatic daily housekeeping is a devastating, once-in-a-generation disinvestment that will trigger mass job eliminations.

Our union estimates that the elimination of daily room cleaning would eliminate 39 percent of all US jobs in hotel housekeeping - almost 181,000 jobs.

Those lost jobs are worth an estimated $4.8 billion in wages annually. That’s just wages – not even factoring in health care or pensions.

1. And this is a disinvestment in the communities that have already been hardest hit by COVID-19.

An estimated 88.6 percent of hotel housekeepers are women, and 73 percent are people of color.

So the jobs that hotels are trying to eliminate, would account for nearly $5 billion in lost wages. Those wages would no longer go to families in the communities that have already been devastated by COVID-19, job loss, and a spike in hate crimes.

1. But Labor has a unique opportunity to stand with us and to help us fight for the future of our work.

We are thankful for the consumer power you have engaged as hotel and casino customers over the years, you honored our Global Hyatt Boycott and you held the strike lines at the Marriott. But now, it is Hilton that we are focused on. And Labor is poised to engage their consumer power again with a hotel company that you patronized. In 2018 and 2019 Labor spent over 100 Million dollars at Hilton branded properties, which is more than labor spent at any other hotel company in those years.

1. In this moment, we need labor to throw down around what the union label means.

We are asking you to assign a point person to coordinate with us on solidarity asks:

·                     Sending a letter to Hilton

·                     Educating your membership about the issue

·                     Insert event contract language that supports workers by requiring automatic daily room cleaning