

June 27, 2018

Mr. Jeffrey Bezos  
President, CEO and Chairman of the Board  
Amazon.com, Inc.  
410 Terry Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98109

Dear Mr. Bezos:

I would like to invite you to participate in a livestreamed town hall event with me and workers from Amazon and CEOs and workers from other highly profitable corporations on Monday, July 16, 2018. The conversation will focus on the responsibility of large corporations to promote an economy that works for everyone, the working conditions and wages of workers, our current tax system, and the growing crisis of income and wealth inequality in America.

Today, the richest 1 percent of American families own a greater portion of the country's wealth than the bottom 90 percent. Even more shocking, just three individuals (yourself included) own more wealth than the bottom half. Meanwhile, the incomes of the top earners continue to skyrocket – CEO compensation jumped as much as 937 percent between 1978 and 2016 – while most Americans struggle to get by on stagnating wages.

As you know, many of your own employees work long shifts for low wages. The people you employ who spend 10 or more hours a night running, bending, lifting, and packing up our new electronic gadgets, baby clothes, dog treats, and kitchen appliances – many of these workers struggle to pay their rent, put food on the table, send their kids to college, or afford their medical bills.

My staff have spoken with Amazon workers who are homeless, who are hungry, who are suffering and in pain. One worker said, "I gave myself a hernia trying to hurry up and go to the bathroom within 1 minute 30 seconds." Another worker said "I am fully convinced that the success of Amazon is reaped – is actually created – by the sheer terror of pushing people to the extreme." And "the conditions at Amazon, you cannot be proud of. You cannot be proud of that if you're a business owner, or really just a human being."

These are just a few examples of a much larger story about the growing divide between the top 1 percent and everyone else. In the year 2018, no one in America, especially those working for a profitable corporation like Amazon, should be living in poverty. I hope very much that you will join us, along with workers and executives from Disney, Walmart and McDonald's, to discuss how we can create an economy that works for all, not just those on top.

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The panel is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Congressional Auditorium, Room 200 of the United States Capitol Visitor Center. If you have any questions, please call Ari Rabin-Havt on my staff at (202) 224-5141. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, July 16.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator