

WI AFL-CIO: Shame on Starbucks for firing Wisconsin union organizer

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Stephanie Bloomingdale, President of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, released the following statement admonishing Starbucks for firing a union organizer in Plover. On May 6, Starbucks terminated Kolton Gosnell's employment just days after workers won their union election for being at the store after hours while off the clock. Gosnell was an outspoken and public supporter of the union drive.

“Shame on Starbucks for firing union organizer Kolton Gosnell for wishing a coworker a happy birthday. The union-busting and intimidation tactics from Starbucks, a multi-billion-dollar company, is unacceptable and immoral. I recently met Kolton at an organizing rally in April and was inspired by his motivation, his spirit to organize, and his willingness to stand up for justice. The Wisconsin labor movement proudly stands in solidarity with Kolton as he seeks reinstatement to his job. Federal law states every worker has the right to join with their coworkers to improve their workplace. Firing someone for protected union activity is unlawful. We will fight for justice for Kolton and for all Starbucks workers facing bogus firings and illegal union-busting from Starbucks.”