Governor of the State of Utah,

Oct. 4, '15.

I thank you for the copy of the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah, relative to the case of Joseph Hillstrom. After a careful perusal of it, I find that there still exists an element of doubt as to the identity of the true murderer.

This is a case of great prominence and every laboring man is watching the final outcome very closely. There were many errors in the lower court, and also perjury existed.

The defendant refused to testify in his trial; if you wish to bestow justice on this brother, give him an opportunity to testify in a new trial.

Trusting that you will act according to the humanitarian dictation of your conscience, let your justice be tempered with mercy, and grant this man a new trial.

Another legal point that is lacking is the failure to prove the motive for the deed. Weigh this matter very carefully before you decide finally, and may the good Lord direct your thoughts.

With best wishes, I remain,

Devoted to the betterment of Humanity,

Ernest James Beutell
Boone LA
Oct 7-15

Hon. William Lingle,
Sor. of Utah,
Salt Lake City Utah.

We, as law abiding citizens of the United States and believers in justice, do hereby respectfully petition you to pardon Joe Hill convicted of murder upon flimsy circumstantial evidence.

Judge Hilton showed this evidence to be entirely worthless when arguing his case before the Supreme Court.
and we ask you for the sake of justice to save this man's life.

Receipt


To come in

H. J. Burlington, Born Town
Minneapolis 10-8-15
Dear Miss Sue Spur
I am on Fares inst another
Trial for Joseph Hillstum
Yours very Respt
T.P. Bulman
Silver Spring, Maryland, Nov. 9, 1915.

His Excellency, the Governor of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sir:

I am authorized to call to your attention a telegram which was sent you by Montgomery County Local of the Socialist Party of Maryland on or about Oct. 12, 1915, in behalf of Joe Hillstrom, and which read as follows:

"Montgomery County Local Socialist Party Maryland hereby most emphatically protests against proposed execution Joe Hillstrom. Irregularities in selecting jurymen, perfunctory defense by his attorneys, slight and entirely circumstantial evidence, absence criminal record or motive for this crime, trial in community inflamed against accused, enmity powerful interests owing Hillstrom's labor agitation point to determination to convict regardless of evidence and strike thorough him at working class. We join defenders of labor throughout the country in demanding new trial."

In view of the impending execution of Hillstrom set for Nov. 19, we take this opportunity of reiterating the substance of that telegram. That our position may not be misunderstood, it should be added that we do not presume to pass on the question of guilt involved, but do contend that the accused should not be executed before he has been proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, after a trial conducted in accordance with the fundamental principles of American jurisprudence. The facts showing the unfairness of the trial are well known and are undisputed.

It is furthermore our opinion that it reflects no credit upon those in whose power the accused now is, to seek to excuse a bad state of affairs and to prove that the trial was a fair one, by bringing forward charges of other crimes at a time when the accused is powerless to refute them—charges as to which there has been presented no legal evidence, and evidence of which, indeed, would not be legally admissible in the trial for the charge on which he was convicted.

While you may not have the authority to cause a new trial of this case to be held, you can at least nullify the effect of an unfair one, and this is what we ask of you in demanding a new trial.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Secretary.
3/6 Bowling Co.
Kensington 190
190-19

Sir,

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in the behalf of one that is being done an injustice that is of being imprisoned and have the prospect of being done he greater  and that of losing his life and whether he is too or not more put in your power to save, and as I understand your duty any official act you do is to be done for justice for all and not to please us six.
Individually, and he is law known to me beyond a doubt that this man has committed a crime. If it has not will you please consider whether to take the life of an innocent man.

Hoping you will take into consideration the value of life to any living thing and equally and innocent man; and the results such act might have on society that is what he is asking for.

Your truly,

O.T. Bachelor
Hon. Wm. Spry,  
Governor of Utah,  
Executive Mansion,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sir:

At a mass meeting of citizens of Seattle which packed the large auditorium of the Labor Temple to the limit of its capacity to-night, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, and ordered sent to you.

Whereas: Joseph Hillstrom, known far and wide as Joe Hill, writer of working class songs, and a Labor Organizer is now facing execution in Salt Lake City, Utah; and

Whereas: The conviction was secured upon purely circumstantial evidence, and there is every reason to believe that Joe Hill is to suffer because of his working class activity; and

Whereas: The flagrant violations of the law of the land and the usual civil processes, of which the case of Joe Hill is but one of many, if allowed to continue, will put the liberty, and even lives of every worker for better conditions, in jeopardy; therefore be it

Resolved: That we, citizens of Seattle, in mass meeting assembled at the Labor Temple, this 10th day of October, 1915, do demand that Joe Hill be given another, and fair trial, and we warn the governing forces, that we will watch with the keenest vigilance, their every move in this case, until Joe Hill is either dead or liberated, and his death without justification will light an unquenchable fire of revolt in the heart of every worker in this community.

Signed: L. W. Buck.  
Secretary,  
Educational Committee.
J. BORRY
PHOTOGRAPHER THIRP RIVER FALLS, MINN.

Oct 11 1913

Honorable William J. Jory
Governor.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Sir,

I learn that Joe Hill has been sentenced to death as a victim of mistaken identity and hereby respectfully petition you to pardon him that justice may prevail.

Respectfully,

J. BORRY
Pennsylvania
(Altoona, Pa.)
Oct. 14, 1915

Gen. John
Endicott Mansfield
Sir:

Permit me to pray
you to commnend the sentence of
Gen. Stilson, whose guilt is
but circumsatantial.

No one who really
knows Lin believes he is guilty. But
they do trust his spirit. That it would
sacrifice at any time in behalf of any
unfortunate. His philosophy of life
and action may not be conventional,
indeed, it may not be right,
but at least he is conscientious
and unswerving in it. He has
always been honest and truthful. The
should not be placed at the hands of any
society or court as

C. F. Andrews
Sogarobba
Oct 16, 1913

Dear Sir,

According to the slightest circumstantial evidence on which Mr. Hill was convicted, it
has been miscarried and as a citizen of the U.S.
I think he deserves a pardon,
Yours truly
D.H. Brown
To his excellency the
Governor of Utah

Reserve the petition if not
to take your excellency
in behalf of Joe Hill,
committed for alleged
sentenced
to be shot to death in your
state on what is said said.

To be very kindly sending
Governor think Shawsmith
express your conscience,
will be by being honest
in this case it best accords
not to put the men to death so
in the name of good old Abe
Lincoln ask a child's heart.
Bridgeton, J unfinished.
10-22-1915
To the Honorable Speaker of the House,
Mr. William Smith,
I am writing in behalf of the Hilltown as a result of investigation.
I am flatly denied.
that the charges are true.
I think you ought to be acquainted with the

right as right.
Yours truly,
M.B.
State, Oklahoma  
Oct. 25, 1915.

Honorable William Spry, Governor  
Salt Lake City, Utah. 

Dear Sir: 
After reading the evidence in the Joe Hill case, I take the liberty to ask you to grant a 
pardon to Joe Hill on behalf of humanity. 

Your respectfully,  
R. L. Brown.
Copy of a letter sent to the Toledo newspapers.

Toledo, O., Oct. 29th, '19.

Editor Toledo News-Sentinel,

Toledo, O.

Dear Sir:-

It may be of interest to the readers of your paper to learn about the unique proceedings which took place in the I.W.W. meeting in Toledo, last Thursday evening.

The case of Joe Hill, I.W.W. poet and song-writer was up for discussion.

It will be remembered that Hill was convicted of murder and sentenced to be shot in Salt Lake City, Utah, at sunrise Oct. 1st. Strenuous efforts on the part of the I.W.W. and other labor organizations to save the life of this man resulted in commutation of sentence for 18 days by the Governor.

On Oct. 15th., the case was reviewed by the state Board of Pardons and that board decided that Joe Hill must die Nov. 19th.

The I.W.W. claims that Joe Hill is a victim of capitalist class conspiracy, that he has not been given a fair trial and guilt that has been established.

They cannot hang us for educating the working class to want all it produces, so they seek to consume our funds and energies and to take our lives by trumping up penal charges and fastening them upon us.

We have left no stone unturned that might save the life of our fellow-worker but the owning class of Utah has decreed that he must die. Therefore Local No. 96, I.W.W., Toledo, O., is of the opinion that if he must be shot, he should have the privilege of dying at the hands of his friends.
The state of Utah will employ five men to shoot Hill on Nov. 19th. One of the five will aim a gun at the victim which is loaded with blank cartridges. None of the five knew whose gun carried the blanks. Each marksman is to receive from the state $50 to aim and fire at Joe Hill, and the one blank insures them all a clear conscience and the unalloyed enjoyment of the money.

Lots were drawn at the I.W.W. meeting Thursday night to select five members to go to Salt Lake and ask the state to pay them $50 apiece to shoot Joe Hill. The lots fell to Ernest Smith, Rodney Hebling, James Callihan, Jack Leever, Fred Cooney and S. Jungstad.

These men will ride freight trains to Salt Lake in order to save every penny of the $50 for the Revolution. They will ask for the elimination of blank cartridges and request that every gun be loaded to kill.

"If Joe Hill must die, his death, even as his life, should contribute to the propagation of Industrial Unions," say the five men who will "hobo it" to Salt Lake to demand that the state of Utah help finance the I.W.W. by paying the friends of its victim $50 to shoot him.

Let Joe Hill's blood be upon the capitalist class of Utah and their political henchmen.

Respectfully,
Josephine Betts, Joe's wife,
24 Col St.
1300 Broadway

Kansas CIty, Mo.

Oct 31, 1874

Hon. Lou. Van Syke
Sec. of Utah

As the officials of Utah are determined to take the life of (in my opinion an innocent man) Joseph Hillstrom, who is still able to do useful labor for the existing society, has a grudge and willing to take his place & be shot.
on the 19th of Nov. providing you feel
Joseph Hillstron. Hillstrom was
the intelligent part of the behind
him & Labor never forgets or forgive.
Utah is anxious to take human life
& satisfied to take the life of a culprit
who is not able to do manual labor. I think
Utah would save more of its good
men if I am sure. Hillstron
is more useful to society than I am,
so why not substitute myself.
I am looking forward to hear from you soon.

I am sincerely,
F. B. Buchler
To Hon. William A. Gray, Governor of Utah,

At a joint meeting of the Italian Socialist faction, I.W.W. Branch and Italian Popular Club, it was voted to urgently request that you use your executive power to free Joseph Helstman. We believe his conviction was an injustice, and his execution would be a crime that would justify all working people, forever hold all law and courts in contempt. Judicial murder must be stopped, and it is now within your power to do. Take the first step in that direction by the pardon of Joseph Helstman.

Alfredo Cerelli
105 Johnson St.
Fall River

[Signature]
No 9 1915

Mr. Gray is it not Seattle Wash.

I found that you raised your self to

her state of bivouac for his kind of

governing his a disgrace to American

people I am ashamed to call my self

American This Cross and Snapes and

Donges are shameful what has this

Man Joe Hellstrom done he has committed

so crime every thing that I have read

goes to show that the man not guilty

and if justice was done the man would

be Liberated Hellstrom do not ask

for any sympathy all he asks is just-

justice, I hope Mr. Governor you will

grant that I say again I hope you do

that and do justice to this poor harmless

man and give him his Liberty I

Believe you will yours truly

W Barrett
RESOLUTION

Whereas through the press despatches pertaining to the trial of Joseph Hillstrom, sentenced to die in Salt Lake City, Utah, on the 10th of this month, the opinion has become generally prevalent, that Hillstrom has been convicted on manifestly weak circumstantial evidence, and

Whereas the authorities concerned, in refusing to grant the appeal for a new trial as made by the Swedish Minister, put forth the contention that Hillstrom has a criminal past, and

Whereas such juridical procedure on the one hand inevitably will have for its effect the lowering of the prestige of the American Courts, Law and Justice and thereby foster Anarchy, and on the other hand will result in the poisoning and undermining of the public sense of Justice, thus paving the way for an arbitrary and despotic regime; therefore be it

Resolved that we ourselves protest and likewise urge all lovers of order and law-obeying citizens to protest most energetically against the dangerous kind of juridical procedure here instanced, and be it further

Resolved that we call upon the authorities concerned to ward off the intended attempt upon the country's judicial institutions, by granting Hillstrom a new trial, or by setting him free, and be it further
Resolved

that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the President of
the United States, the Governor of the State of Utah and to the press.

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Scandinavian Socialist
Labor Federation, at meeting held in New York City, on the 7th of Nov­
ember, 1915.

(Signed)

Charles H. Seabulin
Chairman of meeting.

The Hon. William Spry
State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Secretary.
LOCAZT92 'BRANCZ ' 1INDUSTRIAL ' WORKERS OF THE WORLD PROTEST
AGAINST EXECUTION OF JOE HILLSTROM AND BEG THAT A 'PARDON BE
RECOMMENDED BY THIS HONORABLE BOARD

T. BURRETT
SECT.
Gov. Spry,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.  
Honorable Sirs:-

I wish to appeal to you again on behalf of our human brother, Dr. Joeseph Hillstrom, who is under sentence to be shot dead on the morning of Nov. 19th.

As a man well versed in legal matters, you know that the law does not delight in punishing its subjects; accordingly it very justly and humanly declares, that no man should be convicted of crime unless proven guilty beyond all reasonable doubt.

The prime issue in this case is whether the defendant was present and committed the crime as charged. It devolves on the prosecution to prove his presence.

According to the testimony given, the prosecution did not prove the defendant's presence at the place where the crime was committed. The defendant is therefore clothed with the presumption of innocence, of which a reasonable doubt is an essential element. 

Sine actum ab intentione agentis est judicandum.

This appeal is directed to your higher sense of Justice, and I appeal to you, as I know your power as an executive of the state law; concluding my appeal in all solenece, with a request to you, that you may grant this man a new trial.

Trusting that you will apply the Golden Rule in this matter, I remain, Yours sincerely for true Justice,

Ernest James Beutell.
To Sir,

Please allow me the privilege of seeking your clemency for Joe Wilson Common. Blessed be the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Very Resp,

Flora M. Billins
To the Governor of the State of Utah,
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear sir:

The City Central Committee of the Workmen’s Circle of Chicago, a body representing over 4000 members, has adopted the following resolution at the last meeting on November 10, 1915:

WHEREAS:—Joseph Hillstrom member of the I. W. W. was sentenced to death by a partial judge and a prejudiced jury on trumped-up charges, and—

WHEREAS:—Joseph Hillstrom has been denied a new trial, in spite of the gravest errors in his trial, and

WHEREAS:—this innocent man is in immediate danger of being judicially murdered due to his activities in the labor movement—

Therefore be it—

RESOLVED:—that we demand that execution of Joseph Hillstrom be stayed, and that he be given a new trial.

RESOLVED:—that these resolutions be communicated to the President of the United States, to the Governor of the State of Utah and to the Press.
To the Honorable William Spry,
Governor of the State of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Honorable Sir,

Whereas public opinion, corroborated by the action of President Wilson in ordering the stay of execution of J. Hillstrom (alias Joe Hill) is convinced that enough evidence was not brought to light to convict said J. Hillstrom with capital punishment the undersigned: a respectfull citizen of the U. S., demands that another trial be granted J. Hillstrom and appeals to your executive authority that American Justice and appeals for fairness be given full course.

Trusting that a possible innocent life be saved by the sole application of Fair Justice.

Respectfully Yours

[Signature]
Boston, Mass. Mar. 12, 1865

Mr. Governor.

I am a resident of Boston and a subject of Canada. I join with my former countrymen in望着 you to see that you administer justice to the State.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

[Name]
Seattle, Wash.,
Nov. 12th 1915.

Governor Spy.

Dear Sir: My time and school education are both limited, but if I was your mother you would have no difficulty in grasping my ideas. I write with a pencil because I keep a copy.

I have just written to President Wilson in behalf of Universal Motherhood for the sharing of the unfortunate Joe Hillstrom, or Joe Hill, now in the Pen, in your state.

Since Man was a perfect being and we are Adam and Eve also very imperfect, it is very easy for us to see that the records we have of the transformation of Man to Adam and Eve are badly mixed. So let me begin now to consider things in a different manner of thought.

Since we know so little about Life's way of building or growing bodies, and the consequences of loosing it before Life discards it, I am mother and grandmother, older than our President. Neither of you could masticate the food and
and manufacture the blood and furnish the environment for the growth of a human body. So
why should you make murderers of yourself and others who are compelled to do your bidding. Also
traitors to the Constitution of the U. S. which
accords equality to all.

Hoping you have already spared his body
dur of his life we know nothing, or will do so.
I will send true misuse or missile, which even
suites you best. On its way, hoping for
Justice.

Peace and good will to humanity.

Very Truly

Mrs. M. Ellen Beazart,
421 N. 62nd St.,
Seattle, Wash.
Dear Sir,

After seeing the accounts in the newspapers and thinking the case over with much deliberation I am with horror of others protest against the shooting of Joseph Hillston. The evidence of the jury of the murdered man ought to have an unprejudiced jury to see that Hillston is innocent according to the accounts of the papers. The child heard someone pay to its father (the policeman) a remark that the man intended to go for him for poisoning it given for some crime. 7 years before, Joseph Hillston did not know the policeman.
and if the truth was known; I do
not believe him even to have been near
the place seven years previously.
According to the evidence of the trial
prejudice overwhelmed the minds
of the jury, not justice. If you sign
the death warrant, the same story
will renew in their hearts even after
that they did wrong. But when their
turn comes they will soon have the
memory of our convicting Joe Miller.

A. R. air

jury
Seattle, Wash. Nov 14, 1915

Hon. Sir—

You will be guilty of murder if you do not pardon Joseph Hillstrom. He was not given a fair trial.

Yours Respectfully

J. H. B. Thann
Milford Mass.
Nov 14th 1915

To: Sir,

I am writing you this letter asking for at least to commute the sentence of Joseph Hillton for me on the east here I feel that he has not had a fair trial I think it would be a great mistake for the State of Utah to take this man's life on the evidence presented at the trial hoping that you will act favorably on this appeal to you.

Respectfully,
Edward F. Rand
63 Pearl St.
Milford Mass.
Nov. 15th., 1915.

Hon. Gov. Spry,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

My dear Governor:

I am one of the many citizens who believe Mr. Joe Hill innocent and should be extricated from crime.

Trusting you will agree with my request and grant me this desire, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

William Bendor.

364 Bergenline Avenue,
Union Hill,
New Jersey.
Dear Sir: On the evening of Nov. 11th, during an unseasonable thunder storm a large section of the Des Moines City lights went out; simultaneously a heavy shock of lightning shook the City and everyone in the affected district would have sworn that the lightning did it but this was not the case.

The facts were that at that moment a big fire truck collided with a service pole and a main wire was broken.

On evidence more flimsy than this, Greedy Interests of Utah hope to shoot to death an innocent man, Joseph Hillstrom for a crime committed by hired "gun men".

Deprived of his constitutional right to choose his own counsel he was finedly convicted on circumstantial evidence by a prejudiced jury.

To some degree the above claims must be true, but true or not the killing Hillstrom can serve no good purpose at this time when the proletarian mind is already inflamed by the brutality of the European war.

In "The Growing Grocery Bill" an article copyrighted by Pearson’s Magazine, the author, Allen H. Benson compares the earth to "a big bonmshell, the high cost of living the fuse".

AS GOVERNOR YOU HAVE THE POWER TO WITHDRAW THE MATCH THAT MAY SET OFF THAT FUSE: besides you do not want the blood of that man on your head no more than did the governor of Georgia desire the blood of Frank who was another victim of circumstantial evidence.

Frank had money with which to buy newspaper influence but the friends and sympathizers of Hillstrom outnumber those of Frank ten to one and I dare not suggest the consequences if their sullen protest should be fired into action by the judicial murder of an innocent man.

My judgment, seasoned by over fifty years experience, prompts me to urge you to stay this execution indefinitely, thereby not only saving his life but doing his enemies a favor for which they will thank you in after years.

Sincerely yours,  

[Signature]

2701 Hickman Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.
Battle Creek
Mich.

Dear sir,

I am writing you in behalf of Joe Hillstrom who is imprisoned in one of your cities in Utah sure you would not be so wicked as to allow an innocent man to die if you could prevent it. Now I ask you to release him and allow him to have a fair trial on behalf of a great number of citizens of Battle Creek. 

Yours truly, E. Bailey
Do not kill Joe Hill.

August Williams Blom
No. 9-11 st.
Rockford Ill.

Do not kill Joe Hill

Mrs. Wilfa Blom
818 - 9th st.
Rockford Ill.
May the great Power that is working for the good of all, give you grace and mercy at that critical moment.

With respectfully yours,

Suzanne M. Berry
36 Pearl Road, Nahant, Mass.

Mr. John H. Berry.

Hon. William Spry:
Governor of Utah:

Dear Sir:

I write in behalf of Joseph Hill, convicted of murder and sentenced to be executed September 25th, 1914. Can not your, as the Chief Executive of the great State of Utah, recommend that a new trial be granted this
Hon. William Spry:
Governor of Utah:

Dear Sir:

I write in behalf of Joseph Hill, convicted of murder, and sentenced to be executed September 14th, 1914. Can not you, as the Chief Executive of the great state of Utah recommend that a new trial be granted this
Court of Lynn, Massachusetts. I have followed with keen interest the
details of the trial of this man
who has been sentenced to death.
I am a Justice of the Worthington
State School of Massachusetts for
idol-minded children, have been
appointed by these grounds, have
served thirteen years. Only write
this to show I am opposed to have
some judgment - not swayed by
emotion.

If I were to consider this
sentence in the name of God,
my conscience would be
haunted by the cry of a
man, and it is at times
very distressing...
Condemned man.

If Joseph Hill is guilty of murder, a second trial will only strengthen the public, and the leaders of a great nation, a great state can afford to “temper justice with mercy”- we do not ask for clemency only a new trial. A small incident when a human life is at stake.

as the wife of a lawyer, a Judge of the Municipal.
May the great Power that is working for the good of all, gui you grace and mercy at this critical moment.

Most respectfully yours,

Susanna W. Borg

36 Pearl Road.
Nahant, Mass.

Mrs. John W. Borg.
Mrs. Hannah W. Berry,
30 Pearl Road,
Babson, Mass.

Dear Madam:

Your communication, written on behalf of Joseph Smillie, has been by the Governor, filed with the State Board of Varieties, which board, under the laws of Utah, acts upon applications for varietal protection.

In order that you may be correctly informed as to the facts entering into the appeal of this case to the Supreme Court of Utah, I am enclosing a copy of the decision of the Court for your perusal.

Very respectfully,

Secretary to Governor.
Mr. Governor,

Dear Sir,

I consider the question of the bill to the a rank murder and a blow at liberty, and a crime against the working class of the United States. I respectfully beg to refer this thing to the Cotton States Trust.

Yours truly,

John D. Brasell.
Dear Governor

As an honest working man and lover of justice, I ask you to use your power to give Joe Hill a new trial.

O. Brown. 601 Johnson
Capitol, D.C.
Mr. James Oakey
R. W. Storey
Salt Lake City

Hon. Sir,

I, a citizen of the State of U. S., have investigated the case of Joseph Bullen and find he is innocent of any crime of the State of Utah, and am subject to the power of the State of Utah in your hands to relieve me. I am respectfully yours,

James Baker.