

Kucinich Stands Up for the Rights of Workers, Organizes Opposition to Bill to Gut the National Labor Relations Act

Washington D.C. (August 15, 2011) – Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), who has consistently defended the rights of workers nationwide, is organizing within the Congress to protect the rights of American workers. Workers at Boeing in Washington State exercised their rights and Boeing retaliated against those workers by moving work to South Carolina.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is investigating the issue, but some Members of Congress have proposed legislation, H.R. 2587, that would gut the NLRB and undermine the investigation. Congressman Kucinich wrote to his colleagues urging Members to oppose H.R. 2587 and to support the rights of workers.

The full text of the letter follows:

Dear Colleague,

I write to call your attention to a misguided and destructive piece of legislation that you may soon be asked to vote on. H.R. 2587, the “Protecting Jobs From Government Interference Act,” would gut the National Labor Relations Act and drastically weaken the ability of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to protect the rights of American workers. The bill would do so by stripping the NLRB Board of its power under the Act to require that an employer return work the employer moved to a different location, if the employer was been found to have done so in retaliation for the exercise of protected activity by workers.

The House will return from August recess to vote on this bill, which was specially crafted to undermine the rights of International Association of Machinists (IAM) workers employed by Boeing in Washington State. Boeing is in the midst of an ongoing case brought by the NLRB Acting General Counsel on behalf of the unionized workers who have alleged that Boeing moved work from Washington State to South Carolina for the publicly-stated purpose of avoiding IAM Boeing employees’ lawful exercise of their union activity. The case is still pending, but the bill in question would retroactively strip the NLRB of its power to provide an

Communications Workers of America Local 4250
3055 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411
Elizabeth R. VanDerWoude, President (708) 757-4065 (Office)
evp4250@sbcglobal.net (E-Mail)
<http://www.cwalocal4250.org> (Website)

essential remedy. If the Congress interferes so one-sidedly in an ongoing legal proceeding solely to protect one set of interests, it will trample the union members' rights to recourse and send a clear message to other companies: forget the law—Congress does not care about American workers.

The true intent of H.R. 2587 is not to give companies like Boeing the freedom to move capital to invest where it sees fit. The goal of the bill is to destroy unions and interfere with an ongoing legal proceeding brought by an independent agency tasked by the United States Congress with protecting both employees and employers against violations of our nation's labor laws.

The preamble of the National Labor Relations Act states that its purpose is to give workers and their employers a fair and level playing field upon which to bargain. That spirit is what has made America great, and we must protect it. I urge you to reject H.R. 2587.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

###

Communications Workers of America Local 4250
3055 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411
Elizabeth R. VanDerWoude, President (708) 757-4065 (Office)
evp4250@sbcglobal.net (E-Mail)
<http://www.cwalocal4250.org> (Website)