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## ***LEGISLATIVE ALERT!***

(202) 637-5057

July 20, 2011



The Honorable John P. Kline, Chairman  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Minority Leader  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Minority Leader Miller:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to oppose the “Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act” (HR 2587).

H.R. 2587 will cripple workers’ rights, hobble the National Labor Relations Board, make it easier for companies to ship jobs overseas, and create a new race to the bottom for American workers.

When the National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint against the Boeing Company last April for retaliating against workers who exercised their rights to have a voice on the job by moving production away from its Washington state facility, Republicans and corporate interests amassed a coordinated and focused attack on the NLRB and the workers’ rights it protects. Their attacks – coming from the same crowd that wants to defund and dismantle the NLRB entirely – have nothing to do with the economy, and everything to do with politics.

Retaliating against workers, like Boeing is alleged to have done, is against the law - just like it is against the law for companies to get rid of workers for trying to form a union at their workplace through a “lay-off” after sub-contracting or transferring away their work - or when companies refuse to bargain and, instead, move work for the purpose of denying their workers union representation.

H.R. 2587 will take away the NLRB’s authority to remedy unlawful retaliatory conduct like Boeing is alleged to have engaged in. But it will also take away the NLRB’s authority to restore workers to their jobs when companies simply eliminate work in order to eliminate workers who are pro-union or when companies eliminate work in order to avoid their legal obligation to bargain.

H.R. 2587 will deny workers any meaningful remedy when they lose their job just because they wanted to have union representation on the job or bargain a contract. Employers which are clever enough to claim that the worker's job was "transferred," or "subcontracted," or "outsourced," or "relocated" won't have to do anything except post a notice promising not to do it again. But meanwhile, the worker will have no remedy for having lost her job and her co-workers will plainly see that the government does not protect their rights – that the government is powerless.

H.R. 2587 will have dire unintended consequences as well. It will make it easier to ship U.S. jobs overseas because it legalizes the most despicable form of outsourcing – the illegal kind – by keeping the NLRB from being able to stop it. The bill will remove one of the only tools for preventing work from leaving the U.S.

Finally, the bill promotes a race to the bottom for American workers. It puts in harm way those workers who are trying to exercise their rights to bargain for better wages and working conditions. Who will make sure their rights are respected and enforced when the NLRB, the Agency charged with this critical mission, has no power to do so?

For the reasons listed above we urge you to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Samuel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

William Samuel, Director  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT