



# National Right to Work Committee®

A COALITION OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS

January 29, 2009

MARK MIX, *President*

The Honorable Carl J. Gatto  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: **House Bill 37**

POSITION: **Support**

Dear Representative Gatto:

On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters of the National Right to Work Committee in Alaska, and the nearly 80% of Alaskans who oppose forced unionism, I urge you to support House Bill 37.

Simply put, H.B. 37 would make it illegal to force workers to join a union or pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

Of course, every worker would still have the right to join or support a labor union, only now it would be his or her decision to make.

The constitutional guarantee of freedom of association and the principles of ordinary decency are violated whenever any worker is forced to join or pay dues or fees to a private organization in order to earn a living.

Yet every day, thousands labor under the requirement that they pay union dues -- or be fired.

This is unconscionable.

Indeed, even Samuel Gompers, the founding President of the American Federation of Labor, argued against forced unionism noting that, "No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion."

But a Right to Work law wouldn't just protect the freedom of individual workers. All citizens would win in the improved

economic climate a Right to Work law would foster in Alaska.

Studies have repeatedly shown that Right to Work states have a huge advantage in creating jobs and expanding their economies.

According to PHH Fantus, the nation's leading business relocation firm, half of all companies that are seeking to relocate or expand automatically rule out forced-unionism states.

In fact, in the past decade, non-agricultural employment in Right to Work states grew twice as fast compared to that in non-Right to Work states like Alaska.

Individual citizens of Alaska would also benefit from passage of H.B. 37.

A recent study by Dr. Barry Poulson, a past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association and also a professor of economics at the University of Colorado, compared household incomes in 133 metropolitan areas in Right to Work states with those of 158 metropolitan areas in non-Right to Work states.

Among other results, he found that the 2002 average real income for households in Right to Work state metro areas, when all else was equal, was \$4,258 more than non-Right to Work state metro areas.

The conclusion is clear: The economic benefits of a Right to Work law are too strong to be ignored.

Although the case for Right to Work legislation in Alaska is compelling from any legitimate perspective -- moral, political or economic -- union officials who want to keep coercing union dues from unwilling workers will say or do anything to keep the forced-dues money rolling into their coffers.

However, by fighting against Right to Work, union officials are telling you the only way they can stay in business -- and they are a big business -- is by forcing their members to pay dues.

Right to Work supporters know that when workers see a union truly representing them, they won't need to be compelled to pay tribute -- they will gladly join.

For these reasons, the individual freedom and job-creating power of a Right to Work law are supported by an overwhelming majority of Alaska's citizens.

No American should be required to join a labor union just to

keep a job, and no Alaskan should be compelled to pay dues to an organization he or she does not believe in.

In the interests of the rights of the working men and women of Alaska, of sound public policy and of basic fairness, I urge you to support House Bill 37 at every opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Mix". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mark Mix  
President

