

Konrad Jackson

From: Timothy D. Evans [timothy.evans@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 7:26 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Mike Chenault
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: HB37

Dear Kurt and Mike,

I want to thank you for the time you spent here listening to all of us. I guess the first thing a representative has to learn is patience. I commend you both on yours.

I am very much opposed to HB 37, Right to Work (For Less).

As you both know, I am a proud unionist, but what you do not know is that I worked non-union in our state till I was 32. I came here when I was 19. I grew up in the deep south where most people thought the word union was a bad word, not even to be spoken. So I was not happy when I went to work for Continental Telephone in North Pole and was required to join a union. In less than a year I realized how wrong I was and that like many others I had been "brainwashed" by the antiunion folks. I gained more of a feeling of self respect with having just a small amount of input into how my workplace should be.

I was able to receive health benefits that if I did not have them I would have been bankrupted years ago. I was able to earn fair wages that made a comfortable living for my family and assist my 3 sons to graduate from UAA and lead productive lives. I thank my God every day for what my union has helped me accomplish.

I view the Right to Work (For Less) as a selfish act of people who are jealous of what bargaining units have achieved. They want to receive the same benefits including representation but not have to pay for it.

In our society the majority rules, it is the same in politics as in the work place. When employees choose to be represented by a union they vote, if the majority says yes then they have a union if the majority says no then there is no union. If the majority says no, then the minority has to go along and not be represented. The same is true if the majority is for representation, except a contract has to be negotiated and AGAIN there has to be a vote to accept it. Imagine what would happen if our political structure was set up so that after an election the candidate with the most votes represented only those people who voted for him/her and the minority were allowed to have their candidate represent them, it would be chaos! And guess what, the NLRB allows for a re-do, if the employees are dissatisfied with the union they can vote again and if the majority says no to the union then they are decertified. The majority rules.

Nowhere in our political or social system am I aware that the minority rules.

Bottom line, in state that have the Right to Work (For Less) law, they do exactly that. They WORK FOR LESS! Our economy needs all the help it can get, enacting a law that will lower wages and benefits is contrary to common sense.

Please REJECT HB 37.

Thanks,

Tim Evans
38275 Robinson Loop Rd.
Sterling, Ak. 99672
907-262-3734
timothy.evans@acsalaska.net

Konrad Jackson

From: richardhendren@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2009 9:32 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: Right to Work HB 37

Honorable Representatives,

Please support the HB 37 and end the unconstitutionally forced union affiliation currently the law in our great state. I chose to live in Alaska after a 30-year career in the Navy primarily because of the individual freedoms recognized by the Alaska Constitution. I was appalled to find that in order to become an employee of the state, I would be required to join a labor organization and take a portion of my earnings, which should go to feed my family, and provide support for the union.

While many may see directed unionism as normal, I take great umbrage with the concept of this forced affiliation. Will the state next compel its employees to donate to specific charities, join a specific fraternal organization or be members of an approved church? I think not.

On my first day in the service to our country I took an oath to support and defend our Constitution, not a country, or a people but an idea. There is great beauty in the fundamental idea of both the National and State Constitutions, simply that we are each guaranteed a level footing in our liberty to pursue those unalienable rights endowed us by our Creator. The law as written stands to upset that equality in favor of members of a specific organization and is patently counter to that most basic idea of liberty.

I ask that you take immediate action to right this wrong.

For Liberty,
Rich Hendren
CDR USN (ret)
Wasilla, AK

Konrad Jackson

From: Ryan Marquis [ryanm@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2009 4:06 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: HB37 - From A Constituent

Honorable Representative Olson,

I strongly oppose HB37. As I'm sure you know, labor unions are an integral part of Alaskan history -- going back to before statehood. This state was built by union labor and we're protected by union police officers, firefighters, and paramedics. Labor unions help raise the standard of living for everyone; union and non-union, and labor unions are good for the economy. Labor unions provide excellent service to all levels of government.

Thank you for recognizing my stance. I appreciate the public process.

Ryan Marquis
305 Linwood Ln.
Kenai, AK 99611

Konrad Jackson

From: vkladhenpera@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2009 11:06 PM

To: Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Lindsey Holmes

Subject: Opposition to HB37

Dear Labor Committee Members:

I oppose HB 37!

I am a professional public health nurse and HAVE NEVER BEEN in a union. However, I have been in management for over 35 years and do see there are poor managers and unions do benefit all workers fairly when management is poor.

I oppose HB 37 for the following 4 reasons:

- (1) Labor unions are an integral part of Alaskan history since before statehood;
- (2) Labor unions built this state and provide valuable public services at all levels;
- (3) Labor unions help raise the standard of living for everyone, union and non-union; and
- (4) Labor unions help our economy.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue.

I also wish to extend my thanks for all your hard work and lengthy hours spent in the Legislature this session. You all are appreciated.

Sincerely,

V. Kay Lahdenpera, MPH, BSN, RN
9502 Kavik St
Anchorage, AK 99502
(907) 243-9502

Get the scoop on the live music scene in your area and hit a show tonight. Check out TourTracker.com!

4/8/2009

Konrad Jackson

From: gcharrier@gci.net on behalf of Gavin D. Charrier [gcharrier@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2009 11:31 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: HB-37

Greetings Representative Olson,

Being a Right to Work State is a very misleading statement as to what it actually means. If the truth be known it would be titled a Right to Work, "**for less**", State...

Our State was built on Union Labor from before Statehood to present time. Union Labor has helped raise and maintain the standard of living and wages not only for represented employees but also for those people who work in the private sector.

With good wages, benefits, working conditions and retirement systems the State of Alaska has and will continue to draw the Best of the Best People to Alaska to work and live.

When these things continually get eroded away so does the quantity and quality of the workforce and the services that they provide to the citizens of the State.

As an example:

Since Tier IV Defined Contributions we cannot draw new blood to the State to fulfill many of our public jobs and the bill to rehire the retirees has to be extended multiple times to fill those vacant positions through the lack of quality and/or qualified applicants.

What are we going to do these when these twice over retirees simply cannot work anymore?

Please vote NO on HB-37.

It is not in the best interest of our State, the Citizens or the Spirit of all those who built Alaska...

Thank-You!

Sincerely,
Gavin D. Charrier – 37 Year Alaskan Resident
P.O. Box 8692
1390 Woodside Drive
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Konrad Jackson

From: Steele, Kay [KSteele@borough.kenai.ak.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 8:39 AM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: Right to Work - NO

Not a good idea.

Kay Steele, Admin. Asst.
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4/8/2009