

From the National AFL-CIO
BUSH LABOR BOARD REFUSES TO HEAR US!

At a time when working people are squeezed as never before, and Washington isn't listening to America's workers, the Bush administration is making things even worse by slashing workers' rights at every turn.

The National Labor Relations Board appointed by President Bush has refused to hear oral arguments as it considers three cases that could reshape basic workplace rights and further erode our freedom to form unions. **This is an outrage that must be reversed!**

The cases focus on the definition of "supervisor." If that definition is broadened to include skilled, experienced workers who sometimes instruct co-workers, hundreds of thousands of workers could lose their contract protections and union rights.

As vital as these cases are, and despite pressure from Congress and the public, Bush's labor board has refused to hear oral arguments. **In fact, the Bush board hasn't heard ANY oral arguments since 2001.**

Please urge your members of Congress to tell NLRB Chairman Robert J. Battista to reverse the decision not to hear oral arguments in these critical cases.

Very soon, the NLRB will decide on the three cases, together known as the "Kentucky River" cases, that will determine the definition of supervisor. Because workers classified as supervisors do not have federal labor law protections, the basic union rights of hundreds of thousands of workers are at risk—from charge nurses to workers in the building trades, broadcast, energy, shipping and other industries.

The NLRB's arrogant refusal to hear workers' voices through oral arguments is just another example of the Bush-appointed, corporate-loving board working to throttle the power of working people. Bush's labor board has a history of conducting its business without the thorough public debate that oral arguments provide.

Please urge your members of Congress to tell Chairman Battista to listen for a change and hear oral arguments in the Kentucky River cases.

http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/kentuckyriver_cases

Thank you for protecting workers' rights.

In solidarity,

Working Families e-Activist Network, AFL-CIO

P.S. Starting July 10, the AFL-CIO and its affiliates will come together in a national week of action to make sure the Bush labor board hears our voices. Since they won't hear us in oral arguments, they can hear us in the streets. We'll send you more details on how to take part as the date approaches.

From the AFL-CIO

Big Business Attacks

The Chamber of Commerce, the American Hospital Association and other Big Business front groups are asking their Bush-appointed friends on the NLRB to further erode legal protections for workers' freedom to form unions. Tell your members of Congress to urge the NLRB to get the whole story by allowing a full hearing with oral arguments before ruling on these cases.

Have you ever showed a colleague at work how to perform a task? Have you ever been asked to look over someone else's work? If so, the federal labor board is poised to further limit your freedom to form a union and join with your co-workers to bargain collectively for a better life.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), currently dominated by pro-corporate Bush appointees, soon will decide three cases that could further attack workers' basic rights in America. If the NLRB rules against workers and broadens the definition of "supervisor," hundreds of thousands of workers could be stripped of their contract protections and even more workers could be denied their freedom to form unions.

Contact your representatives in Congress today and urge them to stop the assault on your freedom to join a union. Tell them to urge NLRB Chairman Robert J. Battista to hold oral arguments on these important cases.

In the upcoming decisions, skilled and experienced workers such as registered nurses, who give instructions to co-workers about how and when to perform certain tasks, are particularly vulnerable to reclassification as supervisors. For example, nurses who tell nurses aides to do certain things for particular patients and journeymen/building trades workers who direct other workers on a crew are at risk.

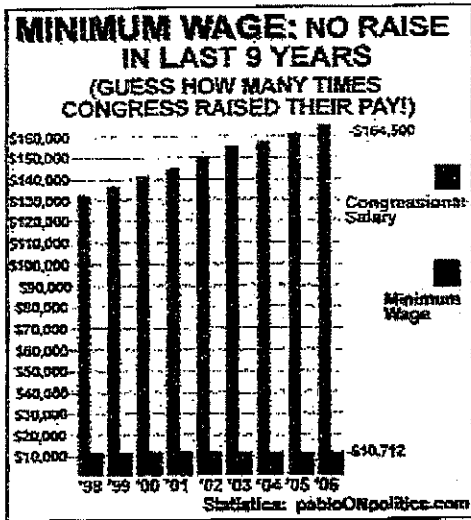
These decisions have the potential to affect a wide range of workers, including those in the building and construction, broadcast, energy, shipping and other industries. This is just another case of the Bush-appointed NLRB working to remove the power of working people by excluding many from union eligibility while cutting the bargaining power of those who remain.

You can make a difference. Contact your U.S. representative and senators today and tell them to urge the NLRB to hold oral arguments on these crucial cases so workers have a voice.

Thank you for all you do.

In solidarity,
Working Families e-Activist Network, AFL-CIO

P.S. Starting July 10, the AFL-CIO and its affiliates will come together in a national week of action to stop the Bush NLRB's assault on our rights. We'll send you more details as the date approaches.



6/26/2006