

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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July 27, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 2587, the "Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act." Under the guise of eliminating so-called "government interference," H.R. 2587 will take away the ability of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to provide basic protections for working men and women under the National Labor Relations Act.

H.R. 2587 would change the rules solely to benefit a particular Fortune 500 company, Boeing. However, it also has broad repercussions for workers' rights. The bill would take away the only meaningful remedy available to workers whose companies move jobs or eliminate work when workers are engaged in protected activities, such as exercising their right to form a union or bargain collectively.

The bill would make it easier for companies to outsource jobs overseas in retaliation for workers' exercising their rights under the law. An employer may outsource for any reason, *except* for an *unlawful* reason. Under H.R. 2587, the NLRB would no longer have the ability to order the work to be kept in or returned to the United States. It would eliminate the only meaningful remedy available to workers if a company illegally moves operations or eliminates work because workers engaged in protected activities, such as organizing or bargaining collectively.

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H.R. 2587 fuels a race to the bottom for workers' rights, wages, benefits, and working conditions and encourages lawbreaking and intimidation by employers. The legislation would facilitate discrimination and retaliation against workers who seek to exercise their rights under the NLRA by taking away the NLRB's authority to restore workers to their jobs.

In effect, H.R. 2587 would strip working men and women of rights and protections that they fought long and hard to win over 80 years ago. It is another in a series of intensifying attacks by those who want to go back to an era when working men and women were without rights, protections, and a voice in the workplace. They are the backbone of our country and our economy, and they deserve your respect and support. H.R. 2587 is another in a long line of devices, thinly veiled and sophisticated, to block and suppress the independent free voice of workers.

H.R. 2587 should be recognized for what it is – a backdoor effort to eliminate the National Labor Relations Act. I strongly urge you to vote against H.R. 2587. If you have any further questions, please contact Jan Oliver, Legislative Representative, at (202) 624-8983.

Sincerely,


James P. Hoffa
General President