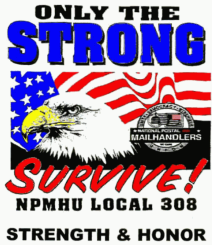




National Postal Mail Handlers Union

THE BREAKDOWN



- Union Representatives**
Local President
John Macey
Branch President
John Gibson
Chief Stewards
T-1
Jeanette Lanza
T-2
Louis Morrone
Reg. Stewards
T-1
Stephanie Geter
Joyce Rogers
Mike Mohan
Jean Gladilina
T-2
Mike Myles
Rob Singleton
Joe Zelenenki
Alt. Stewards
T-2
Velma Jackson
Keith Johnston
Gary Simmons
Alt. Stewards
T-1
Marlon Lassiter

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Pope Benedict XVI, in a new encyclical released yesterday, says the support of unions that can defend workers' rights must be "honored today even more than in the past." He notes that workers' ability to form a union and bargain is at risk, partly because governments "often limit the freedom or the negotiating capacity of labor unions." - July 8, 2009

SENATE COMMITTEE ADDS ANTI-UNION AMENDMENT TO S. 1507

When Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) introduced S. 1507, it was a bill designed to provide the Postal Service with immediate financial relief. The NPMHU supported it. Unfortunately, that bill was abandoned and amended with an unacceptable, anti-union amendment. The NPMHU is now forced to oppose S. 1507. "The amendment makes this bill unacceptable," declared NPMHU National President John Hegarty. "The original bill, which was proposed by the White House, was transformed into a vehicle which attacks collective bargaining for Mail Handlers and all craft employees."

Hegarty continued, "This amendment has absolutely no place in this legislation. It is the Senate meddling in collective bargaining, instead of providing a simple, acceptable legislative fix to an urgent problem." The unacceptable amendment instructs the interest arbitrator to consider USPS finances above other items when seeking resolution in the event that collective bargaining fails to result in a negotiated agreement. The next round of bargaining for the NPMHU is scheduled for 2011. The Postal Service's financial status is always discussed in the context in which negotiations are conducted. By legislating this provision, however, the law guides the arbitrator, who is supposed to be neutral, into a specific direction and manipulates the process toward a specific outcome. Hegarty added, "It is not the business of Congress to interfere in union negotiations. They are essentially putting management's finger on the scale." The amendment was proposed by one of the leading, anti-union Senators, Tom Coburn (R-OK). He contended that postal employees receive "exorbitant" wages and engage in "featherbedding" (no-show jobs). He was supported in his efforts by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) and Carper.

Opposition to this anti-union amendment was led by Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Roland Burris (D-IL). They were joined by Democratic Senators Claire McCaskill (MO), John Tester (MT) and other Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Democrats.

What to do. All activists need to write and call your Senators, Democrat or Republican, and tell them that this amendment is wrong. It interferes with nearly 40 years of very fair negotiations. Vote against S. 1507. Respond now as this bill may be decided next week in the Senate.

