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Label Letter

Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Trump Delivers for Project 2025—By Gutting the NLRB

THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD IS BEING TURNED INTO A WEAPON AGAINST WORKERS.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was created to protect workers' rights—not to destroy them. But nearly six months into Donald Trump's second term, the agency is being hollowed out, kneecapped, and weaponized against the very workers it was meant to protect. It's a textbook example of Project 2025 in action.

Trump's first move? Firing longtime labor champion Gwynne Wilcox. The three-person Board, which needs at least three members to issue decisions, now has just two—making it effectively paralyzed and unable to enforce even basic worker protections.

Inside the agency, the damage is palpable. "I came to the NLRB to help protect workers and uphold labor law," said one anonymous program assistant in *The Nation*. "Now it feels like the agency's been turned into a hammer that employers can use to smash organizing efforts."

And that hammer is only getting heavier. Trump has nominated Crystal Carey, a management-side attorney with a long résumé of defending corporate interests, to serve as General Counsel. With Republican control of both chambers of Congress, her confirmation seems inevitable.

This isn't an accident—it's the plan. Project 2025, the far-right Heritage Foundation blueprint for dismantling government as we know it, explicitly calls for eviscerating the NLRB. Trump is delivering.

Case investigations, such as those involving Tesla's toxic work environment, are gathering dust. The Board can't enforce rulings. Budget cuts and hiring freezes have halted enforcement and led to mass attrition. Career staff are watching the mission they signed up for unravel.

And it's not just the NLRB. The Trump Administration is gutting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and union protections for over a million federal employees.

Federal unions are fighting back in court. But with a right-wing Supreme

Court that upheld Wilcox's firing, the future looks grim.

While Trump and his allies are fast-tracking Project 2025's anti-worker agenda, unions must prepare for the long fight ahead because the war on labor isn't coming. It's here.



California's "Olympic Wage" Under Threat—But Labor Isn't Backing Down

WHILE TRUMP WAGES WAR ON UNIONS, BLUE CITIES ARE SETTING NEW STANDARDS—AND DEFENDING THEM.

In Washington, the war on workers is in full swing. But in Los Angeles, unions are writing a different playbook—raising wages, expanding protections, and organizing to keep wins in place.

Earlier this year, the L.A. City Council passed the nation's highest minimum wage for service-sector workers in preparation for the 2028 Olympic Games. Dubbed the "Olympic Wage," the ordinance guarantees higher pay and health care benefits for tens of thousands of workers, many of them Black, brown, immigrant, and deemed essential to successful tourism in the city.

Unfortunately, corporate-backed forces are trying to take it all away.

A petition to rescind the Olympic Wage ordinance has been officially submitted, with enough signatures to force the issue onto the ballot—unless it's withdrawn or disqualified.

The campaign to overturn the wage increase has been riddled with deception: signature gatherers were caught misleading voters, claiming the measure would protect the

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minimum wage and promote affordable housing. In reality, it does the opposite.

UNITE HERE Local 11 and a coalition of labor allies aren't taking this lying down. They've launched a full-throated campaign to defend—and expand—the Olympic Wage. Their demands include:

- Requiring voter approval for any taxpayer-subsidized hotel or event center;
- Guaranteeing back pay for workers if legal challenges delay implementation;
- And pushing city leaders to cement protections so corporate interests can't undo them quietly.

And it's working. Thanks to relentless worker organizing, city officials are already considering additional measures to protect the policy and penalize those behind the misinformation campaign.

This fight in Los Angeles isn't just about wages—it's about power. It's about whether billionaires and corporations can outmaneuver democracy. And it's about whether cities will stand with workers, or fold under pressure.

The contrast with Washington couldn't be sharper. While Trump and his allies dismantle worker protections and kneecap federal labor agencies, workers in blue states are pushing forward—and holding the line.

This is what labor on offense looks like. But the fight isn't over yet.

Read more at <https://www.unitehere11.org/olympic-wage/>

Organized Labor Decries Supreme Court Ruling Upholding Firing of NLRB Member Gwynne Wilcox

In a landmark decision on May 22, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to reinstate Gwynne Wilcox, a Democratic member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), who was dismissed by President Donald Trump earlier this year. The Court's ruling, which effectively endorses the president's authority to remove independent agency officials without cause, has sparked significant concern among labor unions and advocates for workers' rights.

Wilcox's dismissal on January 27, 2025, left the NLRB without the quorum necessary to adjudicate cases, effectively paralyzing the agency responsible for enforcing labor laws and protecting workers' rights to organize. Labor experts warn that the Supreme Court's decision undermines the NLRB's independence and could set a precedent for increased political interference in agencies designed to be impartial.

Labor organizations have expressed alarm over the ruling. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler stated, "The court's decision to uphold the integrity and independence of the NLRB is crucial. Working people around the country count on equal justice and fair decision-making from an independent NLRB."

The Congressional Labor Caucus also condemned Wilcox's firing as an "unprec-

edented and illegal attack on the NLRB," emphasizing that it violates both the National Labor Relations Act and long-standing Supreme Court precedent.

The incapacitation of the NLRB has had immediate consequences for workers seeking to address unfair labor practices. With the board unable to function, cases involving major employers like Amazon and Tesla have stalled, leaving workers without recourse. Cathy Creighton, director of Cornell University's Industrial and Labor Relations Buffalo Co-Lab, noted, "Right now, the NLRB is not operational because there are only two out of five board members, and the Supreme Court has ruled that they cannot operate with less than three members."

The Supreme Court's decision signals a potential shift in the balance of power between the executive branch and independent federal agencies. By allowing the president to remove agency officials without cause, the ruling challenges the protections established in the 1935 *Humphrey's Executor v. United States* case, which aimed to insulate such agencies from political influence. This development raises concerns about the future autonomy of agencies like the NLRB and their ability to safeguard workers' rights.



“Everything Must Go”: Billionaires and Politicians Are Pushing to Privatize America’s Public Assets



Photo Credit: Dorothea Lange, 1938, Kern County, California (Library of Congress)
Taken during the New Deal era, this photo is a reminder that public investment lifted millions out of poverty and built the infrastructure that still supports us today.

A well-organized campaign to privatize America’s most vital public services and infrastructure is moving from the shadows to the spotlight. From the U.S. Postal Service and the National Park System to the personal data managed by the Social Security Administration, today’s right-wing influencers, corporate billionaires, and allies of Donald Trump are targeting these public goods for private profit.

Privatization isn’t just a threat—it’s an active project. It’s being mapped out in documents like Project 2025 and Trump’s Agenda 47, which aim to hand over critical public functions to unaccountable corporate interests under the guise of “efficiency” and “cost savings.” The truth? It’s about control, profit, and weakening unions and democratic oversight.

THE WAR ON THE USPS: STILL UNDERWAY

The United States Postal Service remains a prime target. For decades, right-wing forces have worked to undermine the public’s trust in the Postal Service. They imposed crushing mandates, such as the 2006 retiree health prefunding law, installed political operatives in leadership, and promoted “cost-saving” service reductions—all designed to weaken public confidence and pave the way for privatization.

Now, with Donald Trump and MAGA-

aligned candidates in power in federal and state offices, this threat is growing. Musk voiced support at a tech conference in March for privatizing the Postal Service, saying, “We should privatize anything that can reasonably be privatized,” the New York Times reported. Meanwhile, far-right think tanks and billionaire donors are lining up to capitalize.

HERE’S WHAT’S AT STAKE IF USPS IS PRIVATIZED:

- Americans lose a trusted, affordable, and universal service—particularly devastating in rural, Indigenous, and underserved urban communities. Post office closures could leave entire towns without essential services.
- Cost hikes and mail delays would disproportionately hurt seniors and veterans who rely on the mail for medications and benefits.
- The more than 630,000 unionized postal workers—including 73,000 veterans—would face job loss, benefit cuts, and weakened protections.
- The USPS’s role in our democracy—delivering ballots, voter registration forms, and civic information—could be manipulated for partisan gain.

While Trump and MAGA-aligned leaders push forward, a bipartisan coalition in Congress is fighting back. Legislation sponsored by lawmakers like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), as well as Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), aims to block any attempt to privatize the Postal Service. Congress must act decisively to pass this legislation.

Keeping the USPS public shouldn’t be partisan—it’s common sense. To back privatization is to put corporate donors ahead of working people and democracy itself.

DATA FOR SALE: LUTNICK, SSA, AND THE NEW OIL

Howard Lutnick, billionaire CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald and a top Trump ally, is

pushing a privatization scheme with massive implications: the monetization of government-held personal data. In interviews, Lutnick has called data from the Social Security Administration “the new oil” and suggested it should be sold to private firms for use in finance, marketing, and surveillance.

This isn’t hypothetical. The infrastructure to commercialize public data is already being built—often under the radar—through public-private partnerships and contract outsourcing.

What Lutnick and others are proposing would blow a hole in Americans’ right to privacy. It would give Wall Street access to your earnings history, employment data, and more—all without your consent.

NATIONAL PARKS FOR SALE?

Even America’s natural wonders aren’t safe. Elon Musk has proposed privatizing services in national parks under the banner of “eco-innovation.” He’s suggested Tesla-run transport systems in Yosemite and SpaceX-led education centers in Yellowstone. It’s a vision that replaces public stewardship with corporate branding and luxury access.

Meanwhile, groups aligned with Project 2025 are calling for “asset rationalization”—a sanitized phrase for selling off public lands, closing parks deemed “underused,” and outsourcing park services to corporate contractors.

THE LABOR RESPONSE: HOLD THE LINE

America’s labor movement is on the frontlines of this battle. Postal unions like the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) are mobilizing to stop USPS privatization. Federal worker unions representing SSA staff and park rangers are sounding the alarm about the creeping transfer of authority to private contractors.

Privatization is more than a policy threat—it’s an attack on union jobs, public accountability, and the very idea of the common good. Every asset sold is a loss for democracy and a gain for the billionaire class.

Time to Take Back Labor Day

Let's be honest: Labor Day has lost its way.

What started as a hard-fought tribute to America's union members has been white-washed into a weekend of blowout sales, cookouts, and corporate lip service. But behind the scenes—and often right out in the open—those same corporations and politicians are doing everything they can to crush the labor movement Labor Day was meant to honor.

We're done with the hypocrisy. This year, the labor movement is taking Labor Day back.

Because let's not forget: this day belongs to us. It was a Machinist—Matthew Maguire of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers—who first proposed Labor Day back in 1882. From the start, it was about recognizing the contributions of working people and the power of organized labor. The IAM has never forgotten that legacy, continuing to lead the way with rallies, parades, and actions that speak louder than any politician's tweet.

Meanwhile, union-busting is running rampant across America:

- Donald Trump and his Project 2025 crowd are openly scheming to dismantle the NLRB and wipe out decades of worker protections. It's deregulation and privatization on steroids—and working people are the target.
- Tesla is firing workers for organizing, all while pushing unsafe conditions and silencing whistleblowers.

- Amazon is spending millions on union-busting consultants and retaliating against warehouse workers who dare speak up.
- Whole Foods (Amazon) is using the power of deep pockets and a crippled NLRB to beat back a union victory in Philadelphia.
- Starbucks has become the poster child for corporate hypocrisy—claiming to support its workers while refusing to bargain with over 400 unionized stores.
- Trader Joe's, REI, Google, Apple—they're all using different flavors of the same union-busting playbook, hoping their brand image will mask the exploitation happening behind the curtain.

But workers aren't backing down.

They're organizing. They're striking. They're winning elections and demanding contracts.



They're building the kind of solidarity that scares the hell out of CEOs.

Labor Day isn't just a break—it's a reminder.

A reminder of the fights we've won. The power we still hold.

And the work we've got left to do.

So no, we're not settling for "15% off" sales and hollow thank-yous.

We're reclaiming this day. For the machinists. For the baristas. For the auto workers. For every worker who refuses to be silenced, sidelined, or sold out.

Labor Day belongs to the labor movement.

And this year, we're taking it back.

Labor Day 2025: Fighting for Freedom, Fairness, and Security

The Labor Day holiday is always an opportunity to show our solidarity and strength for all workers. This year, it has a much deeper significance. While we are not the first iteration of the American Labor Movement to face threats to our existence, our opportunity to use our unique platform and the national attention that comes along with Labor Day has never been more important.

For this reason, we are asking that everyone challenge themselves to do something even more impactful this year - make your Labor Day bigger, broader, and bolder. Make your event something that propels the labor movement forward, that maximizes our spotlight on this day, and which channels our energy and pride into activism.

Tell us about your event, visit <http://bit.ly/4lz0l8f> or use the QR code to fill out the AFL-CIO's form and have it displayed on their map.

If you're planning on multiple events please fill out this registration form for each event. The event will be public once approved by the admins.



Walk in My Shoes:

SMART Local 105 Member Helps Save Woman's Life on Los Angeles Highway

Los Angeles is famous for its traffic. And a large part of that (in)famy is driven by the East Los Angeles Interchange, where Interstate 10 connects with United States Highway 101. Hundreds of thousands of drivers going to, from and through downtown L.A. connect via the two highways daily — including SMART Local 105 member Margarito Martinez, who currently works night shifts as a foreman for Thermal Concepts in Chino, California.

That's precisely where he was headed on May 9 at 4:40 p.m., when he happened to look out the window on his drive to work and see a woman experiencing a seizure behind the wheel.

"I'm not a doctor," Martinez said. "I'm no nurse, but, you know, just doing all the [safety] training I've been doing all these years, even when I was in the apprenticeship, prepared me to see what was going on."

The traffic during rush hour on a weekday, Martinez explained, can be near gridlock. On May 9, as he commuted to work, cars were driving on the interchange at speeds under five miles per hour. That provided the ability to see more than usual.

"I noticed a lot of the cars were just going around a car that was acting weird," Martinez recalled. "So as I got closer to the car, I looked over and I saw a lady foaming from her mouth. She just had a white pile of foam on her chest. And as I got closer, I looked over and it just kicked in for me. You know, I run work, I'm trained for this stuff, so instinct kicked in."

None of the other drivers were stopping or taking action — but on the other side of the woman's vehicle, Martinez made eye contact with another work truck.

"I don't know who he was, but he had a passenger, and we made eye contact and we both agreed ... we've got to help this lady," he said.

Martinez and his fellow worker leapt into action. They jumped out of their respective vehicles and ran towards the woman's car, at which point Martinez said he noticed the woman was "turning blue." The car was still moving — as the other Good Samaritan tried to slow the car, Martinez pushed a window down.

"I tried opening the door, but she was unconscious. I shook her and she kind of looked surprised, looked at me, like, 'what are you doing to me?' And I said, 'I'm trying to save your life,'" he described. "I told her, 'you've got to put your car in park. [But] ... for some reason, her body seemed stuck. And she said, 'oh my God, it's happening again.'"

The woman started seizing, Martinez said: Her eyes rolled back and she began foaming at the mouth.

"That's when I jumped more into the window," he recounted.

Martinez was able to reach the door and open it, and the woman briefly regained consciousness. She tried to put the car in park but accidentally started to reverse instead; Martinez jumped back into the car and hit the emergency brake.

"That's when she looked at me again. She said, 'thank you so much, sir, but it's going to happen again.' And sure enough, she started seizing again," he said.

Martinez held her head back to make sure she didn't choke. Once the woman regained consciousness, he asked two women behind the car to call 911. The ambulance arrived shortly after, bringing the medical attention the woman needed.

Martinez had to leave when the ambulance came — "I can't be late," he remembered thinking.

But before he hit the road again, the paramedics told him that had he not acted, the woman could have crashed, been hit or simply not woken up.

Local 105 paid tribute to Martinez on Facebook, writing: "Margarito, your courage and dedication reflect the very best of Local 105. Your commitment to the safety and well-being of those around you — on and off the job — makes us incredibly proud. Thank you for your service to the community and for representing SMART Local 105 with such integrity. Keep leading by example!"

To Martinez, it was nothing heroic — it was simply a combination of union training and union values.

"I didn't even think about myself to be honest. It was just: Help this lady out," he reflected.

"All this training we do ... it did do something. I did not panic ... it felt like the right thing to do."

"I'm not a doctor," Martinez said. "I'm no nurse, but, you know, just doing all the [safety] training I've been doing all these years, even when I was in the apprenticeship, prepared me to see what was going on."



Back to School Union-Made Lunch

SANDWICHES

Whether your family loves a classic PB&J or a hearty turkey club, you can use the following union-made fixings to satisfy even the hungriest appetites.

PEANUT BUTTER

- » Peter Pan
- » JIF

JAMS AND JELLIES

- » Sorrell Ridge Jam
- » Smuckers

BREAD

- » Sunbeam Bread
- » Wonder Bread
- » Bimbo Bakery

DELI MEATS

- » Armour Deli
- » Oscar Mayer
- » Boars Head
- » Ball Park

CHEESE

- » Horizon Cheese
- » Kraft Cheese
- » Union Star Cheese

FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGGIES

- » Swanton Berry Company
- » Coast Berry Co.
- » Montpelier Almonds
- » Planters Nuts
- » Sunkist
- » Andy Boy
- » Birds Eye

CHIPS & SNACKS

- » Keebler Snacks
- » Chips Ahoy
- » Girl Scout Cookies
- » Entenmann's Cookies and snack cakes
- » Otis Spunkmeyer
- » Rold Gold pretzels
- » Utz pretzels
- » Frito-Lay
- » Pirate's Booty
- » Keystone Food Products
- » Mikesell's potato chips
- » Cheez-Its

BEVERAGES

- » Capri Sun
- » Juicy Juice
- » Motts
- » Welch's
- » Ocean Spray



AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS

JUL-AUG 2025



RESTAURANTS

SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

WASHINGTON, DC:

- » **STARR restaurants:** The Occidental, Osteria Mozza and Le Diplomate
- » **Knightsbridge Restaurant Group:** Modena, Bombay Club and Rasika

HOTELS

SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

Please support the workers in these hotels by continuing to boycott the following properties:

ALASKA:

- » Hilton Anchorage
- » Marriott Anchorage Downtown
- » Homewood Suites by Hilton Anchorage
- » Hampton Inn Anchorage
- » Hilton Garden Inn

CALIFORNIA:

- » Hilton Long Beach
- » Hyatt Regency Sacramento
- » Hyatt Centric Fisherman's Wharf
- » La Meridien
- » Hilton Los Angeles Airport

- » Terranea Resort
- » Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
- » Hyatt Regency Sacramento
- » Four Seasons Beverly Hills
- » Hotel Bel Air
- » Langham Huntington

MARYLAND:

- » Merriweather Lakehouse Hotel

MASSACHUSETTS:

- » Boston Marriott Copley Place

FOOD

SUBMITTED BY

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM)

- » Mondelez International Snack Foods (those made in Mexico)

SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

- » Catapult NW

LEGAL

SUBMITTED BY

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees

- » Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea
- » McDonald, Lamond, Canzoneri and Hickernell

OTHER

SUBMITTED BY Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)

- » Reynolds American, Inc., Vuse e-cigarettes

When some labor disputes with businesses cannot be resolved, the AFL-CIO supports its affiliates by endorsing their boycotts. A boycott is an act of solidarity by voluntarily abstaining from the purchase or use of a product or service.

POLICY GUIDELINE FOR ENDORSEMENT OF AFFILIATES' BOYCOTTS

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has developed policy guidelines that regulate how the federation endorses boycotts undertaken by its affiliates. To get AFL-CIO sanction, boycotts should be directed at primary employers.

THE GUIDELINES INCLUDE THESE PROVISIONS:

All requests to the national AFL-CIO for endorsement must be made by a national or international union.

Any affiliated union with a contract in force with the same primary employer will be contacted by the AFL-CIO to determine whether there is an objection to the federation's endorsement.

Affiliates will be asked to provide the AFL-CIO with background information on the dispute in a confidential information survey. Prior to endorsement of the boycott, the executive officers, or their designees, will meet with the national union's officers, or their designees, to discuss the union's strategic plan and timetable for the boycott, or other appropriate tactics, and to discuss the federation's role.

The national or international union initiating the boycott is primarily responsible for all boycott activities; the AFL-CIO will provide supplemental support.

Boycotts will be carried on the AFL-CIO national boycott list for a period of one year, and the endorsement will expire automatically at the end of that time. National and international unions may request one-year extensions of the listings for actions where an organizing or bargaining campaign is actively in place.

(These guidelines were adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in April 2011.)

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By Rich Kline, *President, UL&STD*



AFL-CIO is Hitting the Road For a Cross-Country Bus Tour in Support of Working People

America's labor movement is hitting the road. While politicians in Washington, D.C., continue to sow chaos and uncertainty for working people and big corporations profit off our backs, the AFL-CIO is launching a nationwide bus tour to provide voice to and build power with the workers who are the backbone of our country.

Over the next two months leading into Labor Day, the ***It's Better in a Union—Freedom, Fairness and Security*** bus tour will crisscross the nation to demand the real concerns and hopes of working people define the direction of our country. We'll be going to dozens of cities and communities engaging with thousands of workers about the issues facing their communities, their organizing and fight for fair contracts, and how the Trump Administration's policies are affecting their lives.

Working people are living on the edge. We're working longer and harder than ever before with less in return. We're seeing our jobs and family-supporting programs slashed just to give bil-

lionaires more tax breaks. We built this country—yet it seems like every day we matter less to the wealthy elites in power.

The economy isn't built on stock prices or corporate profits. It's built by hardworking people all across the country—at factories and construction sites, hospitals and schools, small businesses and big companies—who bust their tails every day to keep our country running and build a decent life for our families. It should be powered by lowering costs so that we can afford food, gas, a roof over our heads and a comfortable living and by ensuring the wealthiest people and corporations pay their fair share for the things we all use and need.

It's past time the politicians in Washington and statehouses across the country prioritize working people over corporate CEOs and billionaires. On this bus tour, we'll hear from working people from every walk of life and every corner of America about what WE need to get ahead. What WE need to build a secure future. What WE need to exercise our fundamental freedoms. Join us.