

Connection

Supreme Court to American Workers: You're on Your Own Without a Union



In the May 21, 2018 decision in the case titled Epic Systems v. Lewis, the United States Supreme Court, unintentionally, showed that belonging to a union is the only remaining way for workers to fight back against an employer who has violated federal labor laws.

For nearly 100 years, federal labor laws have afforded all workers the right to collaboratively improve workplace issues and seek redress for mistreatment by their employer.

For union members, this means having a grievance process to address alleged mistreatment by an employer, and the ability to collectively bargain the terms and conditions of our employment.

For non-unionized workers, “act(ing) collectively” had long included the right of workers to join together and pursue class action lawsuits against an employer who had:

- harassed and discriminated against workers based on their race, gender, and sexual identity;
- intentionally underfunded employee pension plans;
- mismanaged employee 401k plans;
- denied pay to workers they intentionally misclassified,
- and more.

However, in their 5-4 decision in May 2018, the Supreme Court dealt a major setback to non-union workers who have been mistreated by their employer. The court’s decision will allow employers to “bar workers from joining forces in legal actions over problems in the workplace (Supreme Court Deals a Blow to Workers, nytimes.com, 5/21/2018).”

Moving forward, employers can demand that potential employees waive their right to participate in class action lawsuits as a condition of employment.

Said simply, if you work for an employer who has underpaid, harassed or discriminated against you, or refused to pay you the wages you’ve earned – **unless you’re in a union, you are on your own.**

Julie Stein, SOAR Director

Spreading the News



We all need to pay attention and inform others about a recent announcement from the United States Treasury. They expect to borrow \$955 billion this fiscal year (almost double what was borrowed last year.) The Congressional Budget Office said tax receipts will be lower because of the new tax law. This will be the first time borrowing will jump this much in non-recession time since Ronald Reagan was president. The Treasury forecasts additional borrowing of over a BILLION dollars each year for the next two years.

I am not a fortune teller but it is pretty clear to me that, sooner rather than later, Congress will feel compelled to deal with this issue of rising debt. With the increased borrowing I believe this administration is setting up Senior Citizens to be cast as the fall guy for the increased deficits and will want to come after us with cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

SOAR cannot sit back and wait for Congress to act and then respond. We need to begin right now by educating our members, informing the public and to start mobilizing our members to stop, what I am sure will happen, an assault on Medicare and Social Security that will severely impact our standard of living and our healthcare as well.

If we do our job of informing our members and other seniors about this real threat to our standard of living, we will be prepared to defend it and be able to mobilize and work with other groups that share our interest. SOAR must work to defeat any attempt to put the blame of deficits on the backs of Senior Citizens and put it where it really belongs, on lousy tax policy.

Bill Pienta, SOAR President



Honor those who paid the ultimate price. And if you're a USW veteran, join Vets of Steel today!



**Memorial Day 2018
Honor and Remember their Sacrifice**



Del escritorio del Presidente, difundiendo las noticias



Todos tenemos que prestar atención e informar a otros acerca de un anuncio reciente del Tesoro de los Estados Unidos. Esperan pedir prestado \$955 mil millones este año fiscal casi el doble de lo que fue prestado el año pasado. La CBO dijo que los recibos de impuestos serán más bajos debido a la nueva ley de impuestos. Esta será la primera vez que el endeudamiento por primera vez saltará tanto en un tiempo sin recesión desde que Ronald Regan fue presidente. El Tesoro pronostica un aumento adicional de más de MIL MILLONES de dólares cada año durante los próximos dos años.

No soy un adivino, pero tengo muy claro que más pronto que tarde, el Congreso se sentirá obligado a tratar con este tema del aumento de la deuda.

Con el aumento de los préstamos, creo que esta administración está estableciendo a personas de la tercera edad para que sean elegidos como los caídos por el aumento de déficits y querrán venir a buscarnos con recortes a la Seguridad Social y Medicare.

SOAR no puede quedarse sentado y esperar que el Congreso actúe y luego responda. Necesitamos comenzar ahora mismo a educar a nuestros miembros, informar al público y comenzar a movilizar a nuestros miembros para que se detengan, lo que estoy seguro sucederá; un asalto a Medicare y Seguridad Social que afectará severamente nuestro nivel de vida y nuestra atención médica también.

Si hacemos nuestro trabajo de informar a nuestros miembros y otras personas mayores sobre esta amenaza verdadera a nuestro nivel de vida, estaremos preparados para defenderlo y poder movilizarnos y trabajar con otros grupos que compartan nuestros intereses.

SOAR: trabaje para derrotar cualquier intento de echarle la culpa a los déficits a la tercera edad y ponerlo donde realmente le corresponde, con una mala política impositiva.

Bill Pienta, Presidente de SOAR traducción de Dorine Godinez, Presidente Capítulo 30-18



Celebrating 33 Years of Activism! Happy Birthday, SOAR!

For the past 33 years, the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees has provided a way for our retirees to remain active and involved in our union. Since May 23, 1985, SOAR has been integral to our union's mission by helping defend vital programs like Social Security and Medicare, protecting Steelworker pension plans and more, and where we continue our fight for retired and working families.



We, as SOAR members:

- Promote union values and help strengthen our communities
- Aid in our work to protect Social Security and Medicare
- Mentor future generations of union leaders
- Help guide and strengthen our union

It's about activism, advocating, volunteering and more... Thank you for making SOAR 33 years strong!

Yes, Elections and Voting Matters!



There have been some recent activities regarding workers and unions that should concern all workers and retirees.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that employers can require non-union employees to sign mandatory arbitration agreements that, in effect, take away the rights of these workers to file and pursue class actions in court. Simply put, this means that claims of discrimination and other claimed violations of law, would require the workers to go through private arbitration rather than collective legal action. The President’s recent appointment of Neil Gorsuch provided the swing

vote against workers (Epic Systems v Lewis).

I had mentioned in previous writings that, we must be concerned about the appointment of Federal Court Judges that could erode the rights of workers. Think about it... How many future appointments of the Supreme Court and the lower courts will be open in the coming years? It is estimated that there may be over 80 lower court openings and possible Supreme Court openings in the near future. The conservatives and big money interests have been and are reviewing the ideology of pending potential candidates for possible Federal Court openings.

There is another major case pending before the Supreme Court that is expected to be ruled on soon (Janus v AFSCME). This case involves giving public employees, represented by a union, the right to refuse to pay their fair share for the benefit of union representation, in other words, “free riders.” Think about it... The supporters of this action actually support the right to refuse to pay for benefits and rights they are receiving. Let’s hope the court does the right thing and rejects this idea. It is meant to weaken and decrease the financial ability of public employee unions to represent their members and reduce wages and benefits.

Bill Gibbons, PACE Representative



What’s New?

**Stay
Connected!**

**Stay
Connected!**

Beginning with this **Chapter Connection Newsletter (May/June 2018)**, SOAR will be sending an email with a direct-link to access the newsletter on our SOAR webpage, to chapter officers on record. Our goal is to expand upon the email distribution list, once we have the capability to do so.

Let's Not Have Any More Paul Ryans Keeping Us from a Secure Retirement



House Speaker Paul Ryan has announced that he will retire at the end of his term. His decision to remain in the position until January 2019, means that he will be eligible for his annual Federal Employees Retirement System pension of \$84,930 in two years, once he reaches age 50.



At that time, he will join the 23 percent of all American workers who have a defined-benefit pension plan.

Ryan's pension ensures that he will be financially secure in retirement. But, he cares little about the millions of Americans who are not as fortunate.

The vast majority of retirees rely heavily on their Social Security benefits, averaging \$15,983 annually in 2015, to stay out of poverty. And, of course, Paul Ryan consistently fought for "entitlement reform," which would mean an even less secure retirement for millions of Americans by deeply cutting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Instead of helping working families achieve retirement security, he sought to privatize and slash the earned benefit programs we rely on.

We must not let this Congress or the next Congress further attempts to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. In fact, we should be expanding these programs. We can advance our agenda by supporting candidates who truly understand the challenges facing working people and who will fight to help us.

If we all stand together this November, we can send a strong message to politicians who protect their own retirement security, but threaten ours.

Robert Roach, Jr.

Robert Roach, Jr. is president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. He was previously General Secretary-Treasurer of the IAMAW. For more information, visit www.retiredamericans.org.

"Don't speak unless it improves the silence."

SOAR Chapter Connection

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The McNeil Report

We just returned from DC. I came home feeling such pride for our nation's Capitol.

Especially the Smithsonian museums. At the Art Museum, I saw portraits of all the former presidents as well as President Obama's stunning portrait (there was a long line).



The highlight was seeing Michelle Obama's beautiful portrait. I also saw an outstanding photo exhibit called "Blood, Sweat, and Tears" which depicted laborers thru the years. Pictured, is a group of Russian steelworkers in Youngstown steel mill in the 1940's.

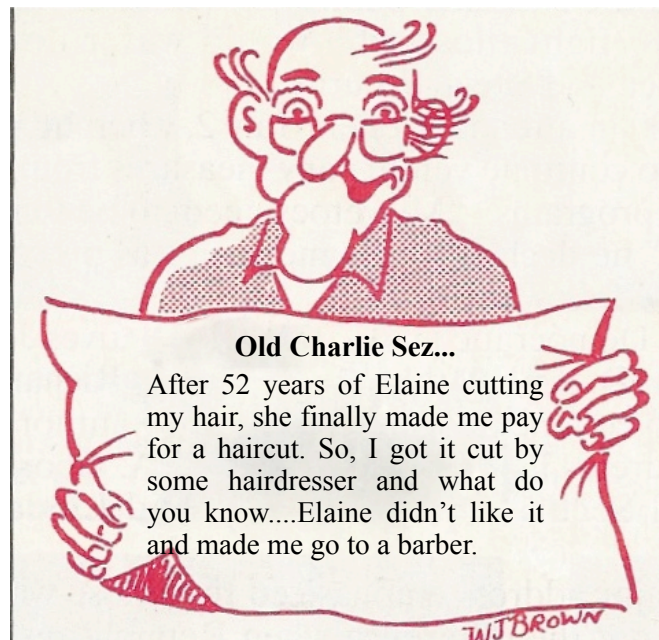


If you go to DC, I encourage you to go to our fine, and free, museums. They are wonderful.

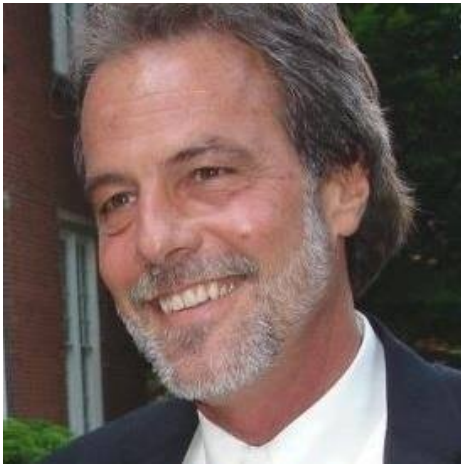
Elaine Averill

“No man can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude without finally getting bewildered as to which may be true.”

-Hawthorne



Report from the Alliance for American Manufacturing



During his campaign, the President promised the American people he would implement tax reform, mitigate our unfair trade policies and begin a long-overdue process of repairing United States infrastructure needs.

A new tax policy has been enacted, and the President has taken major steps to change the landscape of unfair free trade by declaring tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on imported aluminum. This is an ongoing process and it may be many months before we see a definitive result on trade rules.

But, the administration's infrastructure plan has been left somewhere in a large pothole and will not be addressed until 2019. The President will have been in office for more than two years before even getting to first base on an infrastructure program.

Americans will get a more aggressive look at our failing infrastructure this summer during vacation travels by auto, train and airplane. And these are just the transportation components of our infrastructure. The one main issue that both Republicans and Democrats agree upon is the dire need to invest in America's crumbling infrastructure.

Making a major investment in infrastructure would provide a substantial boost to our economy and create jobs especially if Buy America preferences are applied, which the President also pledged he would implement.

A 2014 report by Duke University researchers estimated that a long-term transportation bill worth \$114 billion annually would create 2.5 million new jobs. Since moving into the White House, the President could have already created more than 900,000 jobs and produced a much healthier economy, if he would have seriously addressed an infrastructure program during his first few months in office.

The next time the President travels to one of his many luxurious golf courses, he should travel by car, train or commercial airline. He would then get a first-hand look at why he needs to quickly try to make America's infrastructure something he can be as proud of as he is of his many, well-manicured and heavily-funded country clubs.

Jeff Bonior, Staff Writer for the Alliance for American Manufacturing



“We hear only those questions for which we are in a position to find answers.”

--Friedrich Nietzsche

Photos Taken at the 2018 USW Rapid Response and Legislative Conference



Steelworkers Mobilize to “Go on the Offensive!”

“It is time to go on the offensive,” stated USW International President Leo W. Gerard, at the 2018 USW Rapid Response & Legislative Conference recently held in D.C. “For too many years we’ve been fighting from behind, on the defensive. The time has come to go on the offensive and fight to really change things!”

Over 650 steelworkers from numerous industries in the U.S. and Canada attended this year’s conference (June 21-23). Conference attendees are part of the USW Rapid Response movement, which is set by the union to mobilize members, co-workers, neighbors and families to quickly pressure legislators, build movements, on targeted legislation. It has been described by many as the “state-of-the-art” union organizing/mobilizing initiative, successfully getting the union’s base involved in legislative activities. The Conference prioritizes a couple of bills that become the union’s top goals in the immediate future, also prioritizing wider issues facing the union. For the past couple of decades, bills/issues have almost always been defensive in nature as corporate attacks, economic pressures increased and the union fought to try to defend its hard-won gains.

This year, following Gerard’s call to action, the USW’s prioritized bills were two bills that, if enacted, would result in overturning the entire, broken system of U.S. labor law. The first bill, S. 2810/ H.R. 5728, the **Workplace Democracy Act**, would shift labor law, now completely in favor of corporations, back toward actually helping workers organize. Especially in today’s atmosphere of upsurge and growing struggles, passage of S. 2810 would revolutionize the American workplace in a way not seen since the historic Wagner Act (1935) led to massive organizing by unions throughout the 1930’s-40’s.

S. 2810 would do the following:

- End all the so-called state-level “right-to-work” laws.
- “Card-check” organizing, requiring companies to recognize a union if over half of the workers in a shop sign cards requesting union recognition.
- Guarantee “first contracts” by organizing unions, stopping corporate criminals from refusing to recognize unions, even after they’ve won.
- End corporate ability to use phony “independent contractor” status, which they now use to make workers ineligible to be represented by unions.
- And more.

The other USW prioritized bill is S. 4142/H.R. 3514, the **WAGE Act**, would amend the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to give the NLRB authority to impose real monetary penalties on employers that knowingly violate the labor law; like those found in other federal laws. (FLSA, OSHA, and EEOC).

Another prioritized issue the USW put out as marching orders included Retiree Security. The Retiree Security issue is one that is central to uniting working folks. Earlier this year, the Steelworker’s Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) teamed up with Rapid Response to rollout a postcard campaign as a retirement security initiative.

“When we (SOAR) showed up at union halls, retiree and community centers, churches, etc., with our postcards on retirement security, calling upon politicians to protect, not cut, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and pension guarantees, everyone lined up to sign,” Scott Marshall, SOAR Executive Board Member, District 7, told the Conference. “No one asked if we were Democrats or Republicans. When they saw we were fighting for retiree security, they were all with us.”

The USW urges lawmakers to secure and strengthen Social Security by rejecting efforts to privatize the system, reduce field offices, eliminate the Social Security Disability Insurance program, raise the retirement age, means test benefits, or otherwise undermine benefits. The union strongly supports retiree security bill S.427/H.R. 1114, the **Social Security Expansion Act**, that would ensure that Social Security could pay every benefit owed to every eligible American, increase cost-of-living adjustments, and raises the cap on contributions by those making over \$250,000 a year.

Additionally, the USW brought forward several extremely important trade-related issues:

- **NAFTA:** The union urges lawmakers to demand that a renegotiated NAFTA dramatically improves labor rights and rules of origin by increasing the automobile content rules to 75 percent. This would help raise wages and living standards in all three countries.
- **Tariffs:** The union urges lawmakers to defend the use of all available trade tools (Section 232 on steel and aluminum and Section 301 on intellectual property theft) to hold China accountable and restore balance to our trade relationship with China.

And, lastly, the USW urges Senators not to cosponsor and oppose the **PRINT Act. S 2835**

The 650 USW workers spent their final day in D.C., visiting their home representatives on Capitol Hill, strongly pushing **S.2810** (Workplace Democracy Act), **S. 2143** (WAGE Act) and **S.427** (Social Security Expansion Act) for protecting retiree security. They hand-delivered over 20,000 postcards collected during the SOAR/Rapid Response “Protect Retirement Security” action. They discussed the many concerns of NAFTA; the Section 232 and Section 301 tariff issues, and urged opposition of **S.2835** (PRINT Act).

We were sent home with strong encouragement to show up, and be part of, the growing Poor People's Campaign, demanding justice across the nation.

Furthermore, everything discussed was put into the context of the extreme importance of the 2018 elections - that defeating the GOP could open the way for the massive progressive changes the USW is pushing for.

By Bruce Bostick, SOAR Executive Board Member, District 1

Editor's Note: For your convenience, information regarding the topics discussed in this article are explained in more detail in the pages to follow in this newsletter.



Delegate Group Photo Taken at the 2018 USW Rapid Response and Legislative Conference



This is a photo of Chapter 30-18 President Dorine Godinez and District 7 SOAR Executive Board Member, Scott Marshall as they prepare to deliver retirement security postcards to one of our congressman.

Many thanks to all of our SOAR delegates who helped us in our visits to deliver our many issues to our representatives and senators.

You all made a stressful week seem like duck soup.



This information was provided as part of the Lobby Day effort held during the USW Rapid Response and Legislative Conference.

Strengthening the Middle Class Through Labor Law Reform

The WAGE Act (S. 2143 & H.R. 4548) and the Workplace Democracy Act (S. 2810 & H.R. 5728)

Every worker has the fundamental right to organize without unfair and illegal discrimination by employers. We all do better when we work together. When workers can join a union they can negotiate for better wages, hours, and working conditions. Over the past few decades, the laws have not kept up with changes in the economy and employer practices to prevent workers from exercising their rights. For too long, employers have taken advantage of weak labor laws. It's time to change the laws so workers can organize and collectively bargain without fear.

The Workplace Action for a Growing Economy (WAGE) Act would amend the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to provide real monetary penalties like those found in other federal laws (FLSA, OSHA, and EEOC). If employers face real penalties, they will respect workers' rights to organize and promote change in the workplace.

The Workplace Democracy Act would modernize laws to strengthen worker power in organizing and prevent anti-union tactics by employers who are trying to prevent workers from exercising their fundamental rights.

Research shows that the decline in union density has contributed to wage stagnation. Union workers earn better wages, have better health care and retirement plans, and are less likely to be injured at work. The WAGE Act and the Workplace Democracy Act are bills to grow the economy by improving workers' bargaining power.

The WAGE Act would strengthen protections for working people and better protect their fundamental right to join together with their co-workers and advocate for change. It will also put an end to the perverse incentives for employers to interfere with workers' rights by:

- Tripling the back-pay awards when employers are found to have willfully and knowingly broken the law;
- Providing working people with a private right of action to bring lawsuits to recover monetary damages and attorneys' fees in federal district court, just as they can under civil rights laws;
- Providing for federal court injunctions to immediately return fired workers to their jobs;
- Establishing civil penalties up to \$50,000 for employers who commit unfair labor practices and doubled penalties for repeat violations. This would bring the NLRA in line with other workplace laws;
- Giving the NLRB authority to impose penalties on corporate officers for certain employer violators;
- Allowing the NLRB to issue a bargaining order when an employer prevents a free and fair election, provided that a majority of employees signed authorization cards within the previous 12 months; and
- Requiring employers to inform workers of their rights under the NLRA.

The Workplace Democracy Act will modernize and close loopholes in worker organizing laws by:

- Allowing workers to organize through card check;
- Requiring mediation and possibly binding arbitration to ensure that employers cannot prevent organizing a union by denying a first contract;
- Requiring employers to disclose anti-union consultants and information that is shared with workers;
- Requiring more accurate worker contact information be shared with union organizers;
- Allowing for secondary boycotts and picketing; and
- Eliminating state-level Right to Work laws by repealing Section 14(b) of the Taft Hartley Act.

USW urges Senators and Representatives to cosponsor the WAGE Act (S. 2143 & H.R. 4548) and the Workplace Democracy Act (S. 2810 & H.R. 5728).



This information was provided as part of the Lobby Day effort held during the USW Rapid Response and Legislative Conference.

Retirement Security

The three pillars of a secure retirement—Social Security, pensions, and individual savings—have been woefully undermanaged by our elected leaders. Traditional pensions have become much less common and individuals are increasingly responsible for planning and managing their own retirement savings accounts, such as 401(k) plans. Yet research shows that many households are ill-equipped for this task and have little or no retirement savings. Social Security, the earned benefit that virtually every worker contributes to, continues to be a solid piece of the retirement puzzle but long-term efforts are needed to stabilize the system. Congress and the federal government must be an active participant in shoring up the ability of workers to retire with dignity.

Social Security

Social Security, under which over 66 million Americans receive benefits, is self-funded through payroll taxes and does not contribute to the deficit. The average Social Security benefit for a retired worker was a modest \$1,348 per month in 2016. However, due to the retirement of the baby-boom generation, reduced birth rates of younger generations, and increased life expectancy, the combined Social Security trust funds are projected to decline beginning in 2020. The reserves are sufficient to pay benefits to 2034 and on a reduced basis thereafter. Policy experts estimate the deficit in the combined trust funds could be eliminated by a 1.29 percent increase in the payroll tax rates paid by both employees and employers or other combinations of adjustments such as lifting the ban on taxing incomes over \$250,000 for the Social Security trust fund.

The United Steelworkers (USW) urges lawmakers to secure and strengthen Social Security by rejecting efforts to privatize the system, reduce field offices, eliminate the Social Security Disability Insurance program, raise the retirement age, means test benefits, or otherwise undermine benefits.

Strengthening and expanding Social Security enjoys widespread support: 72 percent of Americans, including 51 percent of Republicans, “support increasing—not cutting—Social Security benefits by asking millionaires and billionaires to pay more into the system,” according to an October 2016 survey by Public Policy Polling.

USW supports the Social Security Expansion Act (S. 427 & H.R. 1114). The legislation would ensure that Social Security could pay every benefit owed to every eligible American for the next 61 years, increase cost-of-living adjustments by more accurately measuring the spending patterns of seniors, and raise the cap on contributions by those making over \$250,000 a year.

Multiemployer Pension Remedies Necessary

Deregulation, changing industries, unbalanced trade policies that have led to facility closures, and the Great Recession have all impacted the retirement savings of millions of Americans who have multiemployer pensions. With over 10 million participants, these plans provide income security and—if adequately funded and expanded—could provide for additional tools for Americans to save.

Unfortunately, some multiemployer pension plans were dramatically impacted after the Great Recession. If left unattended they risk the entire multiemployer pension system and could leave millions of Americans with little retirement savings if they collapsed by wiping out the reserves of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corp (PBGC).

A proactive solution engages government, industry, and workers in ensuring long-term economic security for millions of Americans who are part of the multiemployer pension system. **USW urges the Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans to adopt legislation like the Butch Lewis Act. (S. 2147 & H.R. 4444).**



This information was provided as part of the Lobby Day effort held during the USW Rapid Response and Legislative Conference.

Understanding the Trade Puzzle

No matter what your job, unfair trade impacts all of us in some way. The cost of globalization leaves too many workers, public servants, and communities behind, while the benefits are not distributed fairly. Globalization has intermingled the world's economies and supply chains. Some economists say the U.S. is \$2 trillion dollars per year richer as a result of globalization, but who is richer? Not the average American worker! Wall Street, corporate outsourcers, and massive agri-business get outsized benefits from free trade while the majority of Americans deal with persistent income stagnation, reduced benefits, and diminished bargaining power.

The front lines of the real trade war America has been losing since NAFTA and China's entry into the WTO are littered with hundreds of thousands of lost and outsourced family-supportive jobs. If trade is to benefit everyone, workers need strong enforcement, trade agreements that work for workers, and enhanced tools to fight unfair trade. The USW believes it is possible to create that trade model but Congress must stop appeasing special interests and engage to support it.

IMPROVE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

NAFTA: The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) didn't create jobs in the U.S. and Canada or improve the lives of workers in Mexico. The U.S. and Canada lost over a million jobs, and over 60,000 factories closed in the U.S. since NAFTA. As a result, small towns throughout the heartland have lost the tax base necessary to fund schools, public services, and regional health care. Negotiations to redo NAFTA are at a critical stage. The USW encourages the Trump Administration to follow through on making these and other critical improvements:

- **Labor Rights:** Workers in all three countries benefit if there are enforceable and verifiable labor standards. The protection contract regime in Mexico, where sham unions sign agreements with major corporations to represent workers without their knowledge, holds down wages and workers' rights. This must end to stop the loss of jobs from the U.S. and Canada to Mexico. Workers should be able to vote for the contract they are working under and violations of labor standards in trade agreements must be subject to a process that ensures a timely remedy.
- **Rules of Origin:** Where a product is assembled is only one piece of the jobs puzzle. For example in automobiles, roughly 300,000 USW members make something that goes into a vehicle. From steel to tires, it is important these components are made in a NAFTA country.
 - Congress needs to support a strong rule of origin with at least 75 percent of all content made in the three NAFTA countries.
 - To rebalance job loss in the U.S. and Canada, worker wages should factor into a new NAFTA. Companies pit workers against each other to lower wages. For example at Goodyear tire, where USW represents roughly 7,200 U.S. workers, our members make a living wage around \$24-30 dollars an hour. Meanwhile, workers at the Goodyear plant in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, receive less than \$2 dollars an hour making similar products for the automotive market.

USW urges Senators and Representatives to demand that a renegotiated NAFTA dramatically improves workers' rights and increases the automobile content rules to 75 percent. This will help raise wages and living standards in all three countries.

Use Trade Enforcement Tools

232 Tariffs: Steel and aluminum production in the U.S. are critical to our national security. Section 232 of the Trade Act allows the President to impose tariffs or quotas to protect our national security. Years of unfair trade and global overcapacity in steel and aluminum continually undermine U.S. production. The Section 232 tariffs are the best option to ensure the survival of our critical steel and aluminum production and bring other countries to the table to help solve the problem of China's massive overcapacity. USW supports the continued exclusion of Canada from both steel and aluminum tariffs because of our countries' unique defense and economic partnerships.

- Over 3,000 workers have been hired or recalled since the 232 investigation began.
- Nearly 30 percent of the steel market was taken by imports just last year.
- In a \$20 trillion economy, \$9 billion in tariffs will have a limited impact. As production resumes here, steel users will have access to the best products at competitive prices. The process for exclusions and country exemptions or quotas should be done in an expeditious and fair manner.

301 Tariffs: Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 authorizes the President to take action, including retaliation, to stop foreign governments from hurting U.S. commerce. Last year, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) initiated a Section 301 investigation against China. The results show that China cheats by:

- Using restrictions on U.S. companies to transfer technology to China to gain access to the Chinese market;
- Imposing licensing requirements that deny foreign patent holders, including U.S. companies, basic rights to their technological inventions;
- Directing investment in and acquisition of U.S. companies with the goal of large-scale technology transfer; and
- Conducting and supporting cyber intrusions into U.S. companies and unions to obtain intellectual property, trade secrets, or confidential business information, as when five Chinese military hackers were charged with hacking U.S. commercial networks including the USW.

USW urges Senators and Representatives to defend the use of all available trade tools (Section 232 on steel and aluminum and Section 301 on intellectual property theft) to hold China accountable and restore balance to our trade relationship with China.

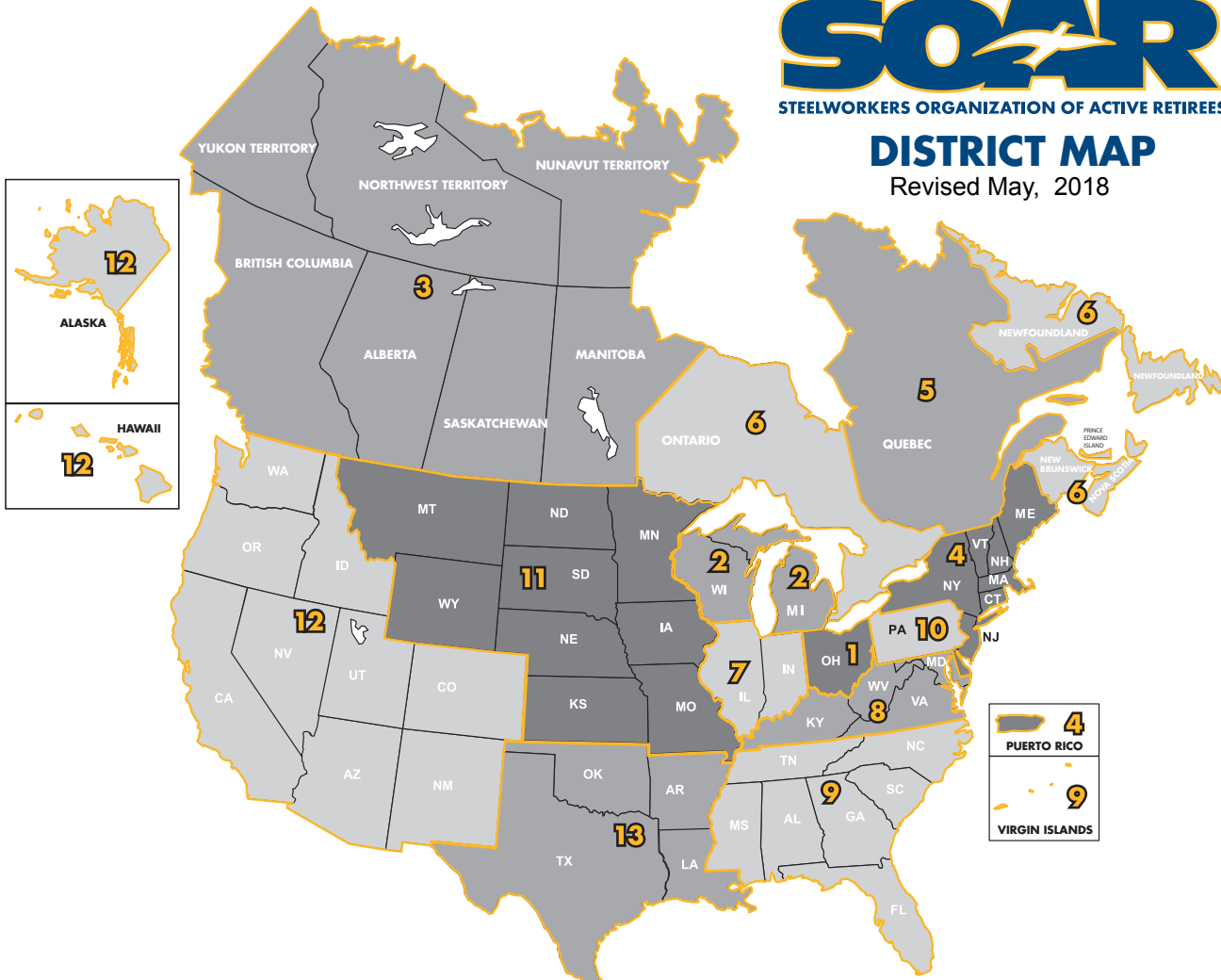
Protect Our Trade Defenses

The Trade Act of 1974, amended by Senator Brown and others with the Leveling the Playing Field Act, is the best weapon USW and our industries have to fight the trade war we have been in for the past several decades. When special interests get hurt because the U.S. enforces its trade laws and imposes tariffs, more and more frequently they hire lobbyists to attack the very laws that have helped save U.S. jobs and the communities tied to our industrial sectors. The newest attempt is taking place in the Senate and is being led by Senators Collins and King from Maine. The PRINT Act (S. 2835) seeks to interfere in an ongoing trade case and is a direct attack on workers' and industries' rights to seek justice through the legitimate use of U.S. trade laws. This bill sets a very dangerous precedent.

USW urges Senators not to cosponsor and oppose the PRINT Act (S. 2835).

UNITED STEELWORKERS
SOAR
 STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVE RETIREES

DISTRICT MAP
 Revised May, 2018



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