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Union Member Seeks to Block Obama Labor Department's Efforts to Roll Back Union Disclosure Rules

nrtw.org, 5/23/2011

Washington, DC (May 23, 2011) – With free legal aid from the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, a Maryland county government employee is asking a federal court to stop the Obama Administration from allowing union bosses to conceal lavish and corrupt union expenditures from workers.

Right to Work or Right to Work for less?

Seacoastonline.com, 5/23/2011

Smith cites data offered by the Virginia-based National Right to Work Committee, which has advocated anti-union policies since 1955, and the associated National Institute for Labor Relations Research. In November 2010, the NILRR released a fact sheet that showed there was greater population and income growth in RTW states than non RTW states. In particular, a study by the Kansas Policy Institute found that between 1999 and 2009 private sector job growth grew by 1.5 million in RTW states and declined by 1.8 million in non-RTW states.

Right to Work in New England

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/21/2011

Twenty-two states have right-to-work laws, most of them in the faster-growing South and West. The big news is that New Hampshire is edging closer to becoming the 23rd, which would make it the first new right-to-work state since Oklahoma in 2001 and could lead to a regional revolution.

The state House and Senate in Concord have passed a right-to-work statute, but Governor John Lynch, a Democrat, vetoed the bill. On May 25 the legislature will attempt to override that veto, and House Speaker Bill O'Brien says he is "cautiously optimistic" that he can gain the two-thirds majority to do so.

Tennessee Governor OKs Bill Barring Requirements for Project Labor Agreements

Daily Labor Report, 5/20/2011

Under the Freedom in Contracting Act, beginning July 1, local governments may not mandate that bidders on public works projects pay wages higher than the prevailing wage rate set by a state commission, if state funds are involved.

The measure also prohibits such state-funded projects from requiring bidders or workers to be affiliated with a labor organization.

Another Labor Board Power Play

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/23/2011

In a May 10 memo to regional staffers, Associate General Counsel Richard Siegel discusses a March case in which the NLRB sided with telecommunications company Embarq Corp. in a dispute over its decision to close a Las Vegas call center and open a bigger facility in Florida. The company refused to explain to its union the rationale for the move. In America, business decisions are made by owners or executives and are rarely subject to compulsory bargaining, while unions confine their concerns to working conditions, pay and benefits.

NLRB Chairwoman Wilma Liebman, a long-time union lawyer, doesn't like that balance.

VW Chops Labor Costs in U.S

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/23/2011

The new plant will present a stiff challenge for Detroit auto makers, which restructured with the goal of achieving cost parity with Japanese companies building cars in the U.S.

Ron Dzwonkowski: Is Michigan ready for manufacturing's comeback?

Detroit Free Press Online, 5/22/2011

"States with flexible work rules and a host of government incentives" will be most attractive to manufacturers/employers, BCG says, naming Mississippi, South Carolina and Alabama as examples.

Unlike Michigan, all three are among the 22 right-to-work states in the U.S., meaning no compulsory union membership or dues. Gov. Rick Snyder has said he is not interested in taking on that issue in Michigan. Snyder also dislikes special incentives for favored companies or industries.

Carroll: New ballgame for unions

Denver Post Online, 5/22/2011

And what prize might that be? "It is obvious to me . . . that the unions have chosen to make their big move to unionize the city workforce," Donohue explained.