



# insight

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## The Threat is Real for Unions and Working Families

If you haven't heard of **Project 2025** yet, it's the 980 page pro-business, pro-billionaire playbook crafted by the conservative think-tank Heritage Foundation that is currently being doled out upon America by the Trump Administration. Some may think it's some kind of abstract proposal that will never actually be carried out, but in actuality the President and his cabinet have been implanting this plan since his inauguration in January. Steps taken by this administration are already underway to cut funding for Medicaid, to shutter the Department of Education, to deport immigrants without due process, to end diversity, equity, and inclusion in government agencies and bullying private sector companies (including RTX) to follow suit. These are just a whiff of all of the mind-boggling proposals outlined in Trump's Project 2025.



That's okay, you might think. He's making America great again. That stuff doesn't really affect me. I'm making good money, and my job seems pretty safe, But is it?

Chances are, you're probably not likely to read through the entire 980 pages of the Project 2025 manifesto. You're busy. You're taking care of your family, you're working overtime, you're fixing up your home, aerating the lawn, getting the kids off for school., hitting the Great Outdoors. It's totally understandable. We all want to live our lives.

Fortunately, there are some organizations doing the drudgery of sifting through this behemoth report and extracting the hidden gems from the litter box. The AFL-CIO

is one of these watchdog organizations, and on their affiliated website ([www.betterinaunion.org/project-2025](http://www.betterinaunion.org/project-2025)) they outline the many ways that Project 2025 will impact union members and working families in a negative way. Here's the summary of a few labor categories that they delve into—ability to organizing, workers' rights, and health & safety—with some alarming proposals in each category that should raise the hair on the back of every union worker's neck.

### Ability to Organize

- Allows Corporations to Union-Bust in Secret
- Makes it Illegal for Employers to Voluntarily Recognize Unions
- Lets Employers Take Away Unions in Mid-Contract
- Permits employers retaliate against union organizers
- Lets employers create their own sham company unions

### Workers' Rights

- Lets states gut national overtime and minimum wage laws
- Permits states to ban labor unions
- Allows employers stop paying overtime
- Repeals labor and wage protections for workers on Federal projects
- Restricts unemployment insurance
- Privatizes unemployment insurance
- Cuts aid to workers whose jobs were sent overseas

### Health & Safety

- Creates loopholes that allows business to put worker safety at risk
- Eliminates child labor protections that prevent teenagers from working in mines, meatpacking facilities, and other dangerous workplaces
- Taxes companies for union-negotiated benefits such as healthcare that far exceed any "Cadillac Tax" encouraging companies to offer workers less and less.

See **Project 2025**, page 2

**Project 2025, continued**

These are only three of the called out by the Better in a Union website. The other seven categories they delve into are Government Workers, Retirement Security, Civil Rights, Consumer Rights, Education, Transportation, and Immigration. We don't have the space in this newsletter to dive deeper into these categories, but you don't have to think too hard to come up with examples of how the current administration is taking steps to weaken the position of working families and the middle class in all of these categories. Cuts to funding and personnel across the board, including the recent threats to Social Security, are all intended to intimidate opposition and free up the estimated \$4.5 trillion the Trump Administration wants to give mostly to billionaires.

And the billionaires love it. They're lining up in droves to get behind Project 2025 for more money and more power, to the detriment to their own employees and customers. But as Tesla CEO Elon Musk can attest to, the most

effective way to fight back against their greed is with our wallets. Below is a truncated list of companies, brands, and organizations that support Project 2025, generated by a group called *Democrats Abroad*, which is probably a red flag for some Republicans and Independents. The thing is, this really isn't about left vs. right, it's about top vs. bottom, and unless you got a giant boatload of money stashed away somewhere, you're probably going to feel severe negative impacts from Project 2025 down the road. We fight back by holding our representatives accountable, by attending town halls and rallies to make our collective voices heard, and with the power of the boycott and our own personal spending choices. There's an app you can download called Goods Unite Us that allows you to check on a product at a store and see what the company's political agenda and philosophy is. Go to [www.goodsuniteus.com](http://www.goodsuniteus.com) for more information.

**These Are Some Companies and Organizations That Support Project 2025's Assault on Labor**

Home Improvement	Clothing	Retail	Sports Franchises
Ace Hardware	Anthropologie	Boost Mobile	Arizona Diamondbacks
Ashley Furniture	Fruit of the Loom	Cuisanart	Buffalo Bills
Dirt Devil	Hanes	Farberware	Hendricks Motorsports
Hoover Vacuum	Leggs Pantyhose	Florist.com	Los Angeles Angels
Oreck Vacuums	Marshalls	Hobby Lobby	New Orleans Saints
Public Storage	Playtex	Home Goods	NY Yankees
Stanley Black & Decker	Urban Outfitters	LL Bean	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Tractor Supply	<b>Restaurants/Food</b>	Motorola	<p>These are some of the familiar companies that support Project 2025's union busting initiatives at a cost to Organized Labor and Working Families. Consider supporting their competitors with your purse or wallet.</p> <p><a href="http://www.democratsabroad.org">www.democratsabroad.org</a></p>
<b>Personal Care</b>	Arby's	My Pillow	
ACTFluoride	Baskin and Robbins	<b>Liquor</b>	
Baush & Lomb	Buffalo Wild Wings	Bacardi	
Charmin	Carl's Jr.	Coors Beer	
Conair	Cinnabon	Grey Goose	
GNC	Dairy Queen	Miller Beer	
Proctor & Gamble	Chiquita Brands	Milwaukee's Best Beer	
Vanity Fair	Dole Foods	Molson	
<b>Travel</b>	Folgers	Tito's Vodka	
Alamo Rental Cars	Hardee's	<b>Auto</b>	
Enterprise Rental	Hershey Products	Armorall	
Exxon	Jimmy Deans	Auto Zone	
Geico	Land o Lakes	Buick Cadillac	
Norwegian Cruise	McDonald's	Chevrolet	
Omni Hotels	Purdue Farms	Discount Tire	
Shell Oil	Smucker's Products	GMC	
Sunoco	Wendy's	NAPA Auto Parts	
Wynn Resorts	Wonder Bread	Turtle Wax	



# NLRB Quorum Reconstituted by Judge's Ruling

by Joe Durette



Last month, *Insight* reported on the firing of National Labor Relations Board member Gwynne Wilcox by President Trump, the only time that a Board member has ever been let go before the completion of their five-year term. Wilcox's firing threw the NLRB into disarray, denying its ability to reach a quorum and dissolving its role as arbiter in labor—management disputes in workplaces across the country.



NLRB Member Gwynne Wilcox triumphantly returns to her DC Office on March 10th after a federal judge ruled her firing to be illegal.

Wilcox didn't go down without a fight. She filed a lawsuit against the president in DC District Court, arguing that she was fired without cause. Earlier this month, Judge Beryl Howell agreed with her, calling her firing "blatantly illegal." "The termination of plaintiff Gwynne A. Wilcox was unlawful, in violation of the National Labor Relations Act and therefore null and void," he ruled. "Wilcox remains a member of the National Labor Relations Board," he wrote, and may only be removed "upon notice and hearing for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other cause" in accordance with the National Labor Relations Act.

Following the decision, AFL-CIO President Liz Schuler commented

on the ruling: "We commend the court's decision to uphold the integrity and independence of the NLRB, an agency that upholds workers' freedom to form a union. More than a month after Trump effectively shut down the NLRB by illegally firing Wilcox, denying it the quorum it needs to hold union-busters accountable, the court ordered Wilcox immediately returned to her seat, allowing the NLRB to get back to its essential work." The decision is good news for our own membership as well, as it is vitally important for us to have a

## What Does the NLRB Do?

- ◆ **Conducts elections**—any workforce seeking to unionize must be certified through the NLRB. The NLRB assists with the necessary forms and ensures that a fair election is conducted.
- ◆ **Investigates charges**—if an employee feels that his or her rights under the National Labor Relations Act has been violated, he or she can file charges with the NLRB to initiate an investigation into those claims.
- ◆ **Facilitate settlements**—the NLRB seeks to resolve differences and complaints between parties through settlement rather than litigation whenever possible. More than 90% of disputes are resolved through settlements.
- ◆ **Decides cases**—those complaints that are not resolved by settlement are usually heard in trial by an NLRB Administrative Law judge, who weighs evidence and testimony of witnesses and experts before issuing a judgment in the case.
- ◆ **Enforces orders**—Circuit Courts review the Board's orders and decides, following briefs and oral arguments by the Board, whether or not to issue a judicial decree enforcing those orders, giving teeth to the Board's orders if so determined. The courts may also uphold the Board's order if the responding party does not appear or is judged to have no legal basis to oppose the Board's order.

Source: NLRB.gov

## Connecticut State Council of Machinists 2025

By Therese Hervieux

On January 25, 2025, the CSCM met for their semi-annual conference in Mystic, CT at the Hilton Mystic. It was well attended by state delegates along with Eastern Territory and International representatives. Highlighted speakers were our International President, Brian Bryant, Congressional Representative Joe Courtney along with many union speakers and local legislators. Topics of course were issues for unions and working families, both on the national level, as well as in our state. This was a highly successful conference with many guest attendees and several from our local 1746.



Left to Right: Taylot Salmon, Donnie Huntley, Chelsea Pullen, Kirby Boyce, Steve McLaughlin, IP Bryan Bryant, Therese Hervieux, Howie Huestis, Joe Durette, DBR Jeff Santini

## Legislative Update

### Senate Bill 8 & House Bill 6904 advance in CT Legislature

Senate Bill #8, now entitled An Act Concerning Protection for Workers and Enhancements to Workers Rights, which includes the provisions of HB 6904, Unemployment Insurance for Striking Workers, and HB 1264, An Act Establishing Additional Protections for Warehouse Workers. After some spirited and novel questioning by Sen. Rob Sampson and House Republicans, the bill passed in the Labor and Public Employees committee chaired by Sen. Julie Kushner. It now moves on to the General Assembly but first must go through the Appropriations Committee due to the fiscal nature of the bill. Lots more to come on this—stay tuned!



The next Monthly Meeting  
will be held on April 13th  
in Grace Baker Hall  
at 11 a.m.



**Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Fridays!!!**

**February RIDII Winners**

- Bryan Canfield
- David Audet
- Jon Nelson
- Joseph Bogle, Jr.
- Luis Candelas
- Matthew Kopp
- Ryan Rupert
- Steven Kusek



**WEBSITES:**

- [www.iamll1746.org](http://www.iamll1746.org)
- [www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)
- [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)
- [www.ctaflcio.org](http://www.ctaflcio.org)

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**APRIL SHOWERS**



**DONATIONS NEEDED**



Please help the Women's Committee in donating ALL personal hygiene products to a local shelter for women and children

Boxes will be at the shop entrances & Union Hall 357 Main Street East Hartford

4/1 - 4/30

**SHELTER WISH LIST ITEMS**

**NEW & UNOPENED**

- Dish Detergent-Laundry Detergent-
- Maxi Pads-Mini Pads (NO TAMPONS)-
- Razors-Deodorant-Shower Gel/
- Body Wash-Shampoo-Conditioner

Please—No Food Items!!!



**LOCAL LODGE 1746  
PRATT & WHITNEY NEGOTIATIONS  
2025 STRIKE SANCTION VOTE**



This vote in no way indicates a strike.

THIS VOTE SIGNIFIES "YES" TO

- SOLIDARITY
- STRIKE BENEFITS
- LEGALLY NOTIFY IAMAW

**FREE T-SHIRT**

Vote on April 4th at the Union Hall.  
Polls open at 6 AM and close at 8 PM.  
\$5 sandwiches while supplies last.  
For info on the strike sanction vote, ask your Shop Committee Member or Steward.