

ROLLBACK OF WORKERS’ RIGHTS AT STAKE IN NOVEMBER

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



Teamster members and other workers are facing a significant political challenge in this election year. Big business and corporate apologists are continuing their push to strip unions of their ability to collectively bargain by pushing so-called right-to-work (RTW) legislation. And if they are successful, more

workers could lose their rights on the job.

Such efforts have already been successful in West Virginia, where earlier this year the Legislature overrode the veto of the governor to implement RTW and roll back the state’s prevailing wage law. While supporters there promised more jobs will result from the move, history shows us that lower pay for residents will be the likely result. And that’s not something West Virginians, or anyone else, needs.

But what happens if this country’s voters decide to elect candidates in November who don’t represent workers’ values? Given the current make-up of Congress and many state legislatures, it is definitely possible that RTW could become a reality in more states or even nationwide. And that would be devastating for millions of families.

Those living in RTW states have a higher poverty rate than those in ones that support collective bargaining. In fact, nine of the 10 highest poverty states are RTW. That, in part, is attributable to lower salaries and benefits. Those with no rights at work make almost \$1,500 a year less. They are also less likely to receive employer-based health insurance or pensions.

Teamsters must help lead the charge to defeat efforts to spread anti-worker legislation. RTW is a ruse. Now pro-worker forces need to spread that message so everyday Americans understand what is at stake on Election Day.

James P. Hoffa

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PARKING
News

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LOCAL 727 PARKING
MEMBER REINSTATED WITH BACK PAY

Arbitrator Emphatically Rules Salstar Parking Member Was Unjustly Terminated

An arbitrator emphatically ruled in the union’s favor and ordered Salstar Parking to reinstate a wrongfully terminated Local 727 member with back pay that totaled \$23,000.

Parking hiker Syed Rivzi was fired without just cause in May 2015, so the union swiftly filed a grievance to have the wrongful termination overturned. Because the company refused to admit to wrongdoing, Local 727 representatives took the case to arbitration. The union’s argument was so compelling that the arbitrator handed down his ruling mere hours after the hearing.

“It can take several weeks or even months to receive an arbitration decision, but because the company clearly did not have a leg to stand on, the arbitrator issued his ruling immediately,” said John Coli Jr., President of Local 727 in Chicago.

“I am very grateful for the Teamsters,” said Rivzi, who has been with Salstar Parking for 10 years and is a father of three. “The company fired me for no reason, without any single reason. The union, Mr. Coli and my business agent were very, very helpful, and they fought for me through everything.”

Arbitrator Herbert M. Berman ordered Salstar to reinstate Rivzi to his position without loss of seniority and with full back pay and benefits lost as a result of the unjust termination.

“I am very grateful
for the Teamsters...
they fought for me
through everything.”
— Syed Rivzi, Local 727

SOLIDARITY ACHIEVES RESULTS

The Teamsters Union has successfully fought to defend the interests and livelihoods of workers around the world. We are America's strongest union because our members know we organize well, negotiate strong contracts and stick up for our members when it counts the most.

Here in Chicago, we've stood up to companies and successfully fought to reinstate workers who were wrongfully terminated on the job. Our strength and expertise has helped us win workers full reinstatement at Salstar Parking, with back pay, benefits and no loss of seniority.

In Buffalo, Teamsters held the line when pressured by Standard Parking, which wanted to push substandard contracts onto hardworking members. The results were impressive: a brand new contract with excellent increases in pay and benefits and better quality of life.

Studies have shown time and time again that union households have higher incomes, better quality of life and a stronger chance of attaining economic mobility. Teamster members of the Parking Division have embodied these characteristics within their profession and we are so lucky we get to take this message to the entire world.



Support for infrastructure investment is growing on both sides of the political aisle. Presidential candidates are talking about it. The media shows images of our deteriorating roads, railways and water systems. Something needs to be done.

Luckily, the Teamsters unveiled its "Let's Get America Working" platform last year that provides a detailed roadmap for how this nation should prioritize such investment. It notes that maintaining, rebuilding and repairing our transportation, energy and water networks benefit workers by creating good-paying construction jobs that often pay prevailing wages. At the same time, such work also helps the economy by improving systems needed by businesses nationwide.

There are many infrastructure problems that need to be addressed. They include:

- More than 59,000 structurally deficient bridges nationwide, crossed by 215 million vehicles each day, according to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association;
- 54 percent of urban roads in substandard or out-of-date condition, according to "TRIP," a national transportation research group;
- Rail infrastructure supporting an increased volume of oil tanker cars, which have increased from 9,500 in 2008 to more than 400,000 in 2013, according to the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, but without sufficient structural improvements to the rail system;
- Upgrading energy delivery infrastructure like pipelines and transmission lines; and
- Replacing pipes in aging water systems to avoid lead contamination like what's happening in Flint, Mich.

Rebuilding, repairing and reinvestment doesn't just need to be about transportation and energy projects. It can be about rebuilding and repairing the trust between government and workers by reinvesting in the people that have and can continue to make this country great. Better pay will lead to more spending and improve our quality of life. That way we all win.

TEAMSTERS RATIFY AGREEMENT WITH STANDARD PARKING PLUS

**Local 264 Members Vote
YES On New Contract**

On Saturday, March 19, by a margin of more than three-to-one, members of Local 264 working at Standard Parking Plus in Buffalo, N.Y., voted to ratify a three-year contract. There are over 90 members in the bargaining unit.

Negotiations opened up in January 2016, before the contract expired on January 31, 2016. The initial round of talks broke down and the members, the vast majority of whom work at the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport, voted nearly unanimously to strike on February 26, 2016 to increase pressure on the company.

The pressure worked as the company came back to the table to negotiate in better faith. An agreement was tentatively agreed upon by both parties on February 29, 2016, which became a binding contract on March 19.

"I'm pleased with the agreement we've been able to negotiate for our members at Standard Parking," said Darrin Ziemba, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 264. "It contains increases in wages and benefits that were won through the unity and strength shown by these workers in the face of many obstacles."



"This new contract is going to help us out a lot," said Sharon Velazquez, an eight-year driver at Standard Parking. "We've endured a great deal to get to this point and we've shown how we're ready to empower ourselves by uniting with the Teamsters to sign off on this agreement. I'm very grateful for all of the help provided to us by Local 264 and the solidarity shown by Teamsters everywhere."

The contract is retroactive to February 1, 2016 and will run through January 1, 2019.

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— Sharon Velazquez, Local 264