

September 28, 2009

The Hon. Zach Wamp
1436 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wamp:

On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters of the National Right to Work Committee in Tennessee, we strongly urge you to remove yourself as a cosponsor and publicly oppose H.R. 413, the so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009," a bill you voted AGAINST on July 17, 2007.

The Tennessee General Assembly, between the House and Senate, has rejected state versions of H.R. 413 on thirteen occasions, most recently in 2007 (S. 1505, H. 1189).

By cosponsoring H.R. 413, you are agreeing to override the will of the people of Tennessee and the Tennessee General Assembly by federal mandate.

You see, if H.R. 413 becomes law, Tennessee legislators would be forced to write state laws giving broad new powers to public safety union bosses over public safety employees in order to comply with the demands of the federal government.

The state legislature would be required to pass laws that would take away the rights of Tennessee's state, county and local police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians to bargain one-on-one with their employers and force collective bargaining and arbitration procedures upon them.

Laws would also have to be passed requiring that public safety employers enter into mandatory monopoly bargaining with the union bosses.

Not only is H.R. 413 bad public policy for the country in that it would preempt approximately two dozen states laws but also it would:

- *** Federally impose on those states (cities, localities, and counties) an unfunded mandate of unknown cost;
- *** Force police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians into monopoly bargaining contracts -- taking away their rights to bargain individually;
- *** Empower union officials to shut down volunteer fire departments in many communities; and increase the likelihood of strikes that shut down police and fire departments;
- *** Shackle homeland security to a union contract. Our first-responder systems need flexibility. You cannot have that if every schedule change has to be approved by a union official.

In addition to the bills that were defeated in Tennessee in 2007, listed below are the 11 individual times over the past 12 years that the Tennessee General Assembly has rejected similar legislation:

Tennessee			
H. 980	Police/Fire Monopoly Bargaining	1997	Rejected
S. 1832	Police/Fire Monopoly Bargaining	1997	Rejected
H. 224	Firefighter Monopoly Bargaining	1999	Rejected
S. 196	Firefighter Monopoly Bargaining	1999	Rejected
H. 1099	Municipal Police/Fire Monopoly Bargaining	1999	Rejected
H. 1602	Police/Fire Monopoly Bargaining	2001	Rejected
S. 768	Police/Fire Monopoly Bargaining	2001	Rejected
H. 1601	Police/Fire Monopoly Bargaining	2003	Rejected
H. 708	Police Monopoly Bargaining	2005	Rejected
H. 2035	Firefighter Monopoly Bargaining	2005	Rejected
S. 1116	Firefighter Monopoly Bargaining	2005	Rejected

Finally, in an age of politicians and candidates for political office campaigning on the rights of the states

and the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, there is no better example of a massive violation of the rights of the states than H.R. 413.

In the interest of sound public policy, the rights of nearly two dozen states that would be affected, and the rights of the state of Tennessee, I urge you once again to withdraw your cosponsorship and publicly oppose H.R. 413.

Sincerely,

Mark Mix
President