

April 18, 2019

To whom it may concern:

Today I am writing in support of Oregon HB 2016. As a public employee and elementary school teacher here in Oregon I have grown irritated with the continued emails coming to my school email from the opt-out movement, which is being backed by the Freedom Foundation. When a biased and anti-labor loaded United States Supreme Court made a ruling in the Janus case last summer, they effectively "let the dogs loose" on public employees.

The gas lighting and fear-mongering rhetoric being used by this group is disgusting and should not be allowed to be sent to my school district email. Within hours of the ruling in the Janus case I received my first email. I have received flyers in my mailbox, and had postcards left at the door of my home. This group will stop at nothing to try to cripple labor unions in this state and across the country.

They are using partial truths and manipulated facts about how association dollars are spent, to harass public employees who have made the choice to remain members of their associations. I imagine that most collective bargaining agreements are similar in the sense that times during the day for discussion of organization business are limited. I can respect that aspect of the agreement, yet the group bombarding us with these emails are sending them at all times of the day and night.

I personally have used their unsubscribe feature on more than one occasion and am still receiving emails. The emails just have a new persons name at the front of the address.

I could go into great detail about the reasons labor unions came into existence in the first place, but I am going to assume that is unnecessary. Even in today's world there are groups that want employees to hold no power in determining their working conditions. These are the groups that are funding and backing things like the Freedom Foundation. They are experts at finding loopholes and manipulation. It is time to stop making their efforts even easier than they have been.

They should not be allowed to continue harassing public employees through email simply because they have bought and paid for a biased and anti-labor Supreme Court in this country. It is frustrating to see no accountability for people who manipulate the facts to benefit their own end, and this bill will start to do that with the Freedom Foundation and their gas lighting rhetoric.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter. Please feel free to contact me personally with any further questions.

Sincerely,

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