

February 19, 2011

TO: TTD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FR: Edward Wytkind, President

RE: Supporting the Battles in Wisconsin and Other States

I know all of us have watched the GOP offensive against union members in Wisconsin and the tremendous response of the local labor movement and our allies. While many TTD unions are directly engaged in this effort, some of you have asked in recent days how you and your members can assist and get involved, especially as these fights develop in other states. This memo offers several ways to do exactly that.

As you know, workers are reacting to newly elected Governors who are fast-tracking a range of bills that weaken or eliminate collective bargaining, advance right-to-work (for less) legislation, unilaterally slash health care and pension benefits, and more. Some of these Governors, with support and encouragement from state legislators, are also putting ideology ahead of jobs by quickly killing huge jobs-creating transportation investment projects like high speed rail and downsizing mass transit budgets. I suspect we are just now seeing the beginning of what will be a torrent of measures that destroy good transportation jobs.

As we know, these battles have little to do with state budget crises – they are about newly elected leaders in key states using their new powers to weaken the labor movement at its foundation.

First, there will be Wisconsin Solidarity Rallies early next week. In almost every state in the country, rallies will take place on Monday, Feb. 21 or Tuesday, Feb. 22. If you can help get the word out to your activists and members, they can take part in this mobilization. See the attached spreadsheet for a list of events, times and locations.

Second, since most of you have members in the affected states, please urge them to visit the websites of their state AFL-CIOs, many of which offer the ability to sign up for email updates and e-activist alerts with details about upcoming rallies and other activities.

Third, for your members who do not live in affected states but want information or ways to make a difference, here is a list of resources that are more national in scope:

- The AFL-CIO has created a new website called States of Denial that provides an overview of the legislative battles at hand, offers petitions, posts recent articles, and more. [Click here](#) to visit.
- The ["We Are One" Facebook page](#) is the Facebook presence where members are loading updates from rallies, photos, recent articles, and more.
- The ["Stand with Wisconsin's Working People" petition](#) also gives people an opportunity to register as activists in Working America, the AFL-CIO's community affiliate.
- Become a mobile activist by joining the AFL-CIO Rapid Action Text Team. Text NEWS to AFLCIO (235246) to receive action alerts and more. (Message and data rates may apply.)

We will be in touch with subsequent updates as we get them. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at edw@ttd.org or my communications director, Jenifer McCormick, at jeniferm@ttd.org. Thanks.