

United DoD Workers Coalition

Nat'l Assn. of Aeronautical
Examiners
Nat'l Air Traffic Controllers Assn.
Professional Airways Systems
Specialists
Antilles Consolidated Education
Assn.
Int'l Brotherhood of Boilermakers
Assn. of Civilian Technicians
Communications Workers of
America
Federal Education Assn./NEA
Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers
Nat'l Federation of Federal
Employees
Fairchild Federal Employees Union
American Federation of Gov.
Employees
Nat'l Assn. of Gov. Employees
Int'l Guard Union of America
Int'l Assn. of Fire Fighters
Hawaii Council of Defense
Commissary Unions
Laborers' Int'l Union of
North America
Int'l Assn. of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers
Nat'l Marine Engineers Beneficial
Assn.
Int'l Organization of Masters,
Mates & Pilots
Metal Trades Dept., AFL-CIO
American Nurses Assn.
United American Nurses
Int'l Union of Operating Engineers
Int'l Union of Painters and Allied
Trades
United Assn. of Journeymen and
Apprentices of the Plumbing &
Pipe Fitting Industry of the U.S.
and Canada
United Power Trades Org.
Int'l Federation of Professional and
Technical Engineers
Retail, Wholesale, and
Department Store Union
Seafarers Int'l Union
Service Employees Int'l Union
Sport Air Traffic Controllers
American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters
Int'l Assn. of Tool Craftsman

(List in-formation)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UDWC Applauds Latest DHS Decision **Judge Again Rejects Bush Administration's Illegal Attack on Federal Workers**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today U.S. District Court Judge Rosemary Collyer again rejected the administration's latest attempt to move forward their agenda to do-away with the workers rights and gut the pay of our nation's Civil Servants. Today's decision comes on the heels of an August 12th ruling by Judge Collyer citing that the government drafted Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel rules illegally did away with the collective bargaining of the department's workforce.

In response to Judge Collyer's original ruling, the Bush Administration petitioned the court to allow them to separate the pay banding and other portions of the DHS policy from the labor relations portions dealing with collective bargaining. However, Judge Collyer denied the government's request, saying in her ruling that, "After thorough consideration of the Agencies' proposed order, the Court concludes that the [Agencies'] proposal is insufficient...As a result, the motion must be denied."

Responding today with respect to its impact on the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), which also aims to eliminate the collective bargaining rights of DoD's 750,000 strong workforce, UDWC leaders applauded the Court's ruling.

Robert Purcell, Director of the Public Employees Department of the Laborers' Union (LIUNA) said, "This should be a wakeup call for DoD to rethink their position as their NSPS regulations violate the Collyer ruling in a similar fashion as the DHS proposed rules."

Gregory Junemann, President of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), issued the following statement:

"Once again Judge Collyer has confirmed what we in the labor community have been correctly claiming for sometime now. Simply put, the proposed DHS personnel system is illegal and given its similarities to the latest product created by the Pentagon and OPM, it is not a stretch to assume that a Court would likely rule the NSPS contrary to the law as well. While the administration can continue to go to Congress and suggest that their proposed personnel systems are within the law, the only voice that counts right now is that of the court. I only hope that the leadership within the Pentagon and OPM will understand that should they attempt to move forward with their current plan to eliminate collective bargaining at DoD, NSPS is likely to experience the same fate as that of the DHS proposal."

In a statement released shortly after the decision, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) President John Gage said that, "AFGE made every effort to design a fair and efficient personnel system in collaboration with DHS... Unfortunately, our efforts and concerns virtually were ignored, which left us with no choice but to file suit."

UDWC member unions AFGE and the Metal Trades Department have been among the unions arguing this case on behalf of the DHS workers.

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