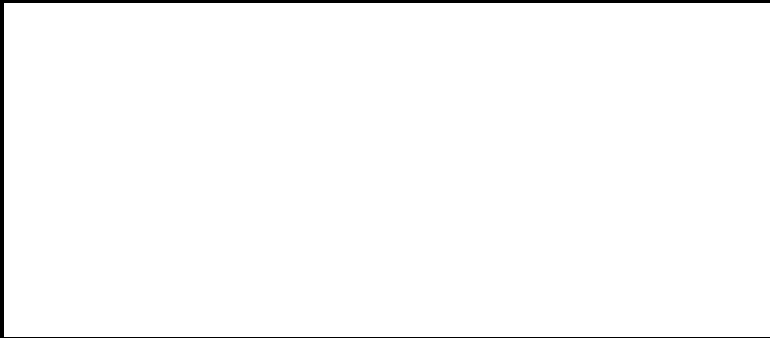


VOLUME 74, #2 • SUMMER 2014

CWA news

Printed in the USA

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO, CLC
{WWW.CWA-UNION.ORG}



LGBTQ

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS

FAIR TRADE

STUDENT DEBT REFORM

SECURE JOBS

TAKING ON CORPORATE POWER

VOTER RIGHTS

SENATE RULES REFORM

PUBLIC SERVICES

HEALTH CARE

PATH TO IMMIGRATION REFORM

RETIREMENT SECURITY

GETTING MONEY OUT OF POLITICS

SENIORS

FAITH BASED GROUPS

CLIMATE CHANGE

CIVIL RIGHTS

STUDENTS

CIVIL RIGHTS/
COMMUNITY GROUPS

WORKERS
/UNIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUPS

BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE



Larry Cohen, CWA President

PUTTING THE PIECES *Together*

The outlook for bargaining rights in the U.S. and our ability to maintain our current standard of living, let alone improve it, is as hard as it's ever been. This issue of the CWA News looks at what we need to do to turn that around. It's not one thing. It is several pieces we need at the same time to build a movement for real change.

Today, just 6.6 percent of private sector workers have union representation. When CWA formed in 1948, nearly 35 percent of private sector workers had bargaining rights. Ten million organized in the prior 10 years – that's the kind of movement we need to build again. It wasn't just workers organizing, as effective as the sit down strikes and other campaigns were. It wasn't just community organizing, as effective campaigns reached out to immigrant and other communities.

And it certainly wasn't just the New Deal or the National Labor Relations Act. It was a combination of all those things, building a mass movement in workplaces, communities, and politically, that brought workers' rights to two generations of Americans.

What happened next?

As early as the 1940s, corporations starting running anti-union campaigns. We've had 70 years of "corporations are people," with companies pushing to exercise their "right to free speech" through captive audience meetings, workplace intimidation and harassment of union supporters. Now, in 2014, it's harder than ever for workers who want a union in their workplace. It's not that workers don't know about bargaining rights, or that we haven't been working hard enough. It's that most corporate management is determined to block progress for working people, and we won't change this by ourselves.

Look at T-Mobile USA. In Germany, the company recognizes the union and practices participatory management. Here, the company runs a national campaign of suppression of workers' rights. T-Mobile's practices are so bad that the National Labor Relations Board took

the extraordinary step of consolidating the complaints against T-Mobile, so that there can be coordinated prosecution. The NLRB doesn't do this lightly; only Walmart has been cited in the same way.

Bargaining rights are key to a democracy, to enable workers to have a voice and make economic gains. That's why in Brazil, where 40 percent of workers now have bargaining rights, the standard of living has improved dramatically. In Brazil 25 years ago, organizers and others doing social justice work would most likely end up in prison or exile. Today, leaders in Brazil, Chile and Argentina have built a democracy movement and have made a real difference. They said no to the oligarchies that were strangling ordinary citizens. For example, in Brazil's financial sector, bank workers in Sao Paulo now get paid more than those in New York City.

In Germany and France, works councils mean workers have a voice in what happens on the job. Germany also has codetermination where just less than half of the management board are elected worker representatives.

In the U.S., however, workers' collective bargaining rights are continually under attack. The International Trade

Union Confederation now rates the U.S. a "4" (out of 5) below 78 other nations in comparing workers' rights. U.S. management exports our jobs, not our products and services, and cuts our living standard as they maximize profits. And all the policy papers and policy positions won't change anything if we don't build a democratic movement with the power to stop them and move forward on a new populist agenda.

In this issue of the CWA News, we're celebrating some organizing victories, learning more about how we stop fast track legislation and a flawed Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal, and focusing on how we build our movement for real change, by ensuring voting rights and getting money out of politics.

It's harder than it's ever been, but not hopeless. We have a path – let's keep moving!



CWAnews

Official Publication of the Communications Workers of America (AFL-CIO, CLC)
International Union Headquarters
501 3rd Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20001-2797
Phone: (202) 434-1100

Address changes:
Inquiries or corrections for CWA News subscriptions should be addressed to CWA Membership Dues Dept.
E-Mail: subscribe@cwa-union.org

Produced by
CWA Communications Department

Director/Executive Editor
Candice M. Johnson

Senior Writer/Editor Michael Allen

Editorial Specialist Alicia Nestor

Technical Specialist Sarah Splitt

CWA News (ISSN 0007-9227) is published quarterly Jan/Feb/March, April/May/June, July/Aug/Sept, and Oct/Nov/Dec by Communications Workers of America, 501 3rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001-2797. Periodical Postage Paid at Washington, D.C. and additional mailing offices
Postmaster: Send address changes to CWA News, 501 3rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001-2797.

Printed by Kelly Press, Cheverly, Md.

CWA Executive Board ■ **President** Larry Cohen ■ **Secretary-Treasurer** Annie Hill ■ **Vice Presidents** District 1, Christopher M. Shelton ■ District 2-13, Edward Mooney ■ District 3, Judy Dennis ■ District 4, Linda Hinton ■ District 6, Claude Cummings ■ District 7, Mary Taylor ■ District 9, Laura Reynolds ■ **Telecommunications and Technologies**, Bill Bates ■ **Public, Health Care and Education Workers**, Brooks Sunkett ■ **Broadcast and Cable Television Workers**, Jim Joyce ■ **The Newspaper Guild-CWA**, Bernie Lunzer ■ **IUE-CWA Industrial Division**, Jim Clark ■ **Association of Flight Attendants-CWA**, Sara Nelson ■ **PPMWS Executive Officer** Dan Wasser ■ **At Large Board Members:** Madelyn Elder, Nestor Soto, Carolyn Wade, Greg Wynn ■ **Director TNG-SCA Canada**, Martin O'Hanlon

CWA TELEPHONE TOWN HALL CALLS

If you haven't joined CWA's monthly telephone town hall call, you're missing a lot. The 30-minute calls are held the third Thursday of every month, at 7:30 pm ET.

Every month, President Cohen and CWA activists and leaders discuss what's happening in our union, from bargaining challenges to organizing.

We're sometimes joined by our coalition partners: leaders from the Sierra Club, People for the American Way, Public Citizen, Common Cause, Greenpeace and the NAACP. Others have included Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senators Sherrod Brown and Elizabeth Warren, Rep. John Sarbanes, leaders from AFSCME and the AFL-CIO and many more.

TEXT CWACALL TO 69866 OR GO TO WWW.CWA-UNION.ORG/MONTHLYCALL



Why should CWA members care about workers having the right to organize without fear of retaliation from employer? All of our industries are consolidating. We need to build power in every sector. If more than 7 percent of private sector workers were organized, workers could bargain better contracts.

STUDENT GROUPS WORKERS/UNIONS

In a huge victory, retail store workers at six Verizon Wireless stores in Brooklyn, N.Y., voted for a union voice and representation by CWA Local 1109.

This vote is a breakthrough not only for these workers but for thousands more across Verizon Wireless who want a union to help address their issues on the job. For more than a decade, Verizon has done everything possible to prevent VZW workers from joining 40,000 Verizon Communications workers and 80 Verizon Wireless technicians who already have CWA representation.

This vote begins to break down that barrier and ensures representation to these retail store workers. They also join more than 40,000 workers at AT&T Mobility who have organized without fear at their company for nearly two decades.

Bianca Cunningham, who works at the Bensonhurst store, said, "We walked in the footsteps of our brothers and sisters who fought before us. We banded together in the face of adversity and combatted fear with hope. We look forward to Verizon Wireless workers



stepping out of the shadows and joining the 40,000 strong in CWA who work at Verizon to continue to fight for the middle class."

VZW executives kept up an intense campaign against workers who wanted a union voice to

address their job insecurity, declining wages and discipline for unreasonable/unfair sales metrics.

Workers were ordered to attend one-on-one captive meetings with management as often as three times a day. On Monday, on the eve of the

election, the company even shut down several of the Wireless outlets for as long as two hours to inundate the workers with anti-union propaganda. The number of corporate executives camping out in the six stores was a "who's who" of top company management.

But CWAers fought back. Dozens of Verizon landline and wireless technicians filmed testimonials, talking about the benefits of having a union voice. CWA members hand wrote letters to each of the 63 retail workers participating in the election, and AT&T Mobility retail workers in New York rallied with the workers too.

The Verizon Wireless workers also received support from numerous elected officials, including New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

In the end, Verizon Wireless' intimidation tactics didn't work. So determined to cast her ballot, one pregnant employee actually arrived at the Bayridge store already in labor. She was unable to walk down the stairs to vote, so the National Labor Relations Board set up a special voting area in the bathroom of the store.

NLRB GENERAL COUNSEL CONSOLIDATES COMPLAINTS AGAINST T-MOBILE

In an extraordinary decision, the General Counsel for the National Labor Relations Board has consolidated multiple unfair labor practice complaints that have been brought against T-Mobile US. The telecommunications company has been repeatedly cited for its relentless and escalating attempts over the past 10 years to stop workers from obtaining union representation.

That puts T-Mobile in Walmart's league as both have had consolidated complaints issued by the NLRB general counsel.

T-Mobile must defend a wide range of illegal actions, and the Board can order broad relief for employees at every TMUS location. There is clear evidence that T-Mobile US headquarters in Bellevue, Wash., has been monitoring workers' actions and that the company's anti-union campaign has been orchestrated from headquarters as well, as indicated by T-Mobile's "third party activity reports."

The first hearing will begin in September in Albuquerque, N.M., where two workers were illegally disciplined,

then fired because of their support for union representation. One hearing officer and team will hear all complaints, witnesses and evidence in Albuquerque and subsequent locations.

Meanwhile, T-Mobile workers are joining TU, a joint union formed by the German union ver.di, which represents workers at T-Mobile and parent company Deutsche Telekom, and CWA.

ver.di members in Germany are stepping up their support of T-Mobile US workers.

Recently in Berlin, more than 1,000 ver.di activists and international trade unionists rallied outside Deutsche Telekom's offices to pressure the company into stopping its subsidiary's anti-worker abuses.

That same day, messages of solidarity from activists in the Indian trade union movement, British union leaders, U.S. and European activists, from members of Arab unions and from many others around the globe lit up Twitter with support for T-Mobile workers.

Taking it to the 'UnCarrier'



CWAers, joined by student activists from United Students Against Sweatshops and AFL-CIO union supporters, leafleted outside the T-Mobile annual meeting in Bellevue, Wash. The goal was to show shareholders and the public that T-Mobile, despite the advertising dollars spent branding itself as the "uncarrier," is really just like Walmart, another documented labor law violator.

Inside the meeting, Amber Diaz, a TU member and former T-Mobile employee from Albuquerque, N.M., called on Deutsche Telekom CEO Timotheus Höttges to justify the \$29 million salary

paid last year to T-Mobile US CEO John Legere, while thousands of T-Mobile workers are paid wages that are so low that they qualify for government assistance, including food stamps and other aid. He responded that Legere's compensation is competitive and he may even be underpaid.

Shareholders also voted on a proposal urging the T-Mobile Board of Directors to disclose how it assesses human rights risks in its operations and supply chain. The proposal was presented by The Marco Consulting Group, a Chicago-based registered investment adviser, and the AFL-CIO's Office on Investment. It had the support of Institutional Shareholder Services, the leading proxy advisory firm.

The proposal was based on the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which are endorsed by T-Mobile parent Deutsche Telekom in Germany, but shamefully, Deutsche Telekom, which owns 67 percent of T-Mobile US, voted against the proposal.



Why should CWA members care about TPP? TPP makes it easier for corporations to avoid water regulations or a minimum wage increase, might limit future profits. TPP moves the goalposts with no workers' rights and an av

SENIORS

WORKERS/UNIONS

LGBTQ

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

STAND UP, FIGHT BACK

More than a thousand activists from dozens of progressive organizations rallied outside the U.S. Capitol to protest fast track legislation and the negotiated-in-secret Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Braving thunder and a downpour, CWAers and members from 42 allies representing labor, environmental, student, citizen, faith and good government groups chanted, "They say 'Fast Track!' We Say 'Fight Back!'"

Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Mike Michaud (D-Me.), Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), and Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), who have been strong supporters of fair trade and workers' rights, made it clear: trade deals should work for all of us.

Levin cut right to the bottom line: "When fast track was brought up, we said, 'Look, we don't agree to fast track anything if we have no idea what the hell is in it.' We want to make sure there's complete transparency. Trade is the business of all Americans — not just a selected few. And we're going to stand up for that."

Then together, greens, students, workers and others, visited every office of every member of Congress to show that our alliance is united in this fight for fair trade.

"We will march out of here more determined than ever to build this movement across this country and ask this president to join with us for fair trade, 21st century trade," CWA President Larry Cohen said. **"This is a new day. It's time for a new deal on trade."**



HOW BUILDING OUR MOVEMENT Helps Us Beat TPP

Activists from CWA and allies are working together to stop fast track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. In Des Moines, Iowa, CWAers built a great crowd for a TPP "teach-in." About 65 people joined the discussion that focused on how to get the word out about just how bad TPP is for workers, jobs and communities.

Steve Abbott, president of the CWA Iowa Council, said that participants are committed to contacting their members of Congress and writing letters to the editor to their local newspapers to spread the word. "Don't be afraid to grow a coalition. Don't be afraid to get others to help. We can't do this by ourselves. That's why it's so important to have partners in this because collectively we can do much more than we can as a single group. When you bring facts to the masses, you're going to see outrage," he said.

A key CWA partner is Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, an affiliate of National People's Action. Hugh Espey, executive director, said, "free trade is about corporations — of, by and for the 1 percent. Fair trade is more about people. So it wasn't hard to step into that space. We got into that space because of CWA."

CWA Local 1103 and Westchester, N.Y., grassroots community groups organized a terrific "People's Town Hall: Why You Should Care about TPP" meeting. The goal was to put a human face on what TPP really means, and it was a big success, said 1103 Secretary-Treasurer Joe Mayhew. **"I knew we had a winning issue when I saw the outrage people had when they found out corporations can actually sue our country,"** he said.

A community panel, featuring members of Concerned Families of Westchester, Food and Water Watch, the Hudson River Presbytery, Lower Hudson Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club, Westchester Putnam Central Labor Body and WESPAC discussed the impact of the TPP on local jobs, our environment, food safety, healthcare and democracy.

In Santa Rosa, Calif., about 50 people attended a meeting to learn more about the TPP and why activists are pressuring Rep. Mike Thompson (D) to stop this disastrous trade deal. The discussion included members of CWA Local 9400 members and Sierra Club activists.

WILL CORPORATE STATES REPLACE NATION STATES?

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) is a provision included in several free trade agreements including the Trans-Pacific Partnership. It covers any country participating in a trade deal, like the 12 nations now negotiating TPP. It gives foreign corporations the right to challenge any government laws or regulations that could affect a corporation's "expected future profits."

That's how the French firm Veolia can challenge an increase in the minimum wage in Egypt. Or how Vattenfall can sue Germany for ending nuclear energy and therefore limiting potential profit from this nuclear manufacturer.

Corporations take these challenges to private United Nations or World Bank tribunals. There, a select group of

"arbitrators" who know all the players hear the case and make their decision, no matter what elected representatives or the government or the people want. ISDS gives corporations the right to directly sue national governments for cash awards to enforce the special investor protections contained in a trade agreement.

Currently, there are more than \$15 billion in claims pending, filed by corporations against national governments using provisions just like those in TPP.

Citizens across the U.S. and everywhere else strongly oppose handing off our national sovereignty to the corporate world. We're fighting back.

“ UNDER TPP, CORPORATIONS HAVE MORE STANDING THAN GOVERNMENTS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS VIOLATIONS GET EMPTY RHETORIC. ”

– CWA President Larry Cohen

CONNECTION

to export jobs. It allows multinationals to sue any government if a law, like clean makes bargaining harder, because we're competing with countries like Vietnam, average wage of 75 cents an hour.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

LGBTQ

WORKERS/UNIONS

SENIORS

House Democratic Caucus Tells Froman: TPP MUST LEAD TO IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR ALL WORKERS

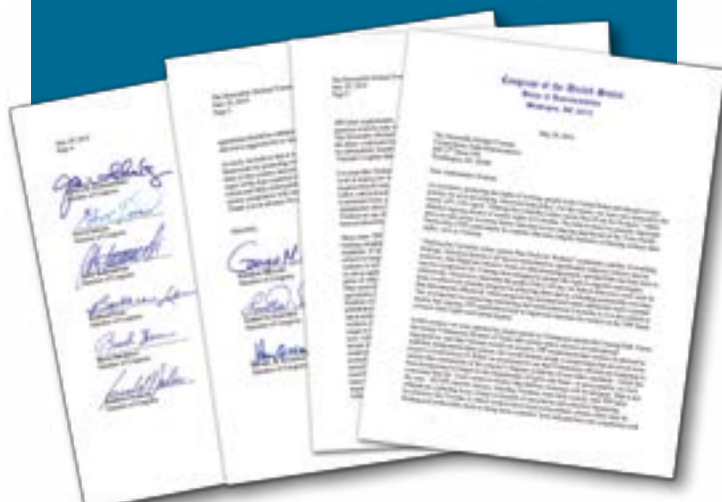
Some 153 House Democrats have signed a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman calling on him to “take action to ensure better outcomes in our ongoing negotiation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), particularly in countries that have lengthy histories of denying workers their rights, such as Vietnam.”

“These 153 Democratic members of Congress are putting the Obama administration on notice that it can’t go forward with some version of ‘Boehner Trade.’ House Democrats are clear: they will not support fast track authorizing legislation until they have read and approved the negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership deal,” said CWA President Larry Cohen.

Reps. George Miller, (D-CA), Mark Pocan, (D-WI) and Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) circulated the letter among their Democratic colleagues, urging them to join the call to protect worker rights, most notably in Vietnam, but also in Malaysia, Brunei, and Mexico, where violations of worker rights also persist.

“We must apply pressure to countries like Vietnam and others to improve their conditions and laws to protect and empower their working class, and to ensure that the American marketplace is not flooded with goods produced by workers lacking fundamental rights,” they wrote.

Workers in Vietnam face extraordinary abuses, including forced or indentured child labor. Workers in Malaysia, the Department of State reports, have their rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining “severely restricted,” including prohibitions on union membership by workers in several sectors, significant limits on the right to strike, and governmental interference in union registration.



62 PERCENT OF VOTERS SAY FAST TRACK AND THE TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP WILL MAKE THINGS WORSE.

These 175 organizations agree.

SABRINA USA - SERRA CLUB - COALITION FOR JUSTICE IN THE MAQUILADORAS - US ACTION - UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA - SUNDAY SINGLE-PAYER COALITION - MISSOURI RURAL CROSS CENTER - FOOD EMPLOYMENT PROJECT - DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA (DSA) - NATIONAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL (NRDC) - NCAI/INDIA CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION - SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU) - WORKING AMERICA - FAUX CHOICE USA - INDIAN TRIBAL HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT - PUBLIC CITIZEN - CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY INTERNATIONAL - HEALTH GLOBAL ACCESS PROJECT - INTERNATIONAL - INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS (IFPTE) - OCCUPY NAPERVILLE WATERWORKERS ALLIANCE - FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION - UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (URM) - WISCONSIN ACTION ALLIANCE - SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES IN AGRICULTURE - TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION - NAVY SEAFARERS UNION - CHARTER FOR WORKER AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS - AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION - COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR (COSPEL) - BREAST CANCER ACTION - WASHINGTON STATE COALITION FOR A SAFE BERKELEY - BRIGHTER FUTURE - BLUEPRINT ALLIANCE - BACKSTAGE CAMPAIGN - COMMUNITY ACTION FOR JUSTICE IN THE AMERICAS/AFCA ASIA (CAJIA) - UNITEWOMEN/ORG - ACTION COALITION FOR JUSTICE IN THE MAQUILADORAS - CIP AMERICAS PROGRAM - DEMAND PROGRESS MOVEMENT FOR POLICY STUDIES - GLOBAL ECONOMY PROJECT - DOMESTIC FAIR TRADE ASSOCIATION - WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM - RESISTANCE - US/ORG - COOPING - US ACTION OPENING DOORS - BAY PLANNERS - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AIRCRAFT WORKERS - INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS (IBEW) - BLUE AMERICA - INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS - PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY - FOOD CHAIN WORKERS ALLIANCE - UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS - COALITION FOR A PROSPEROUS AMERICA - FARMWORKER ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA - AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) - HOLY CROSS INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE OFFICE - ORGANIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION - HEALTH ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL - FAMILY FARM DEFENDERS - INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHEET METAL AIR, RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS - FARMWORKER ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA - NATIONAL WOMEN UNITED - ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY - OREGON INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS - PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA - NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE - FIGHT THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP - CREDIT ACTION - ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION - NATIONAL FARMERS UNION - AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS - RURAL COALITION/COALICIÓN RURAL - CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT - MOVE TO AMING - FARMERST INTERNATIONAL CENTER - WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH - BLUE DOG - ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY - WATER FRONTIERS - FAIR WORKS PROJECT - TRANSPARENT FORUM - SOLIDARITY-BEING - CENTER FOR PROGRESS - UNITE NEW NATIONAL PHYSICIANS ALLIANCE - MISSOURI RURAL CROSS CENTER - FOOD EMPLOYMENT PROJECT - DEMOCRATIC TALK RADIO - WOODSILVA WOMEN FOR PEACE - GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL - PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS UNITED STUDENTS AGAINST OBLIGATIONS - INTERNATIONAL ACTION CENTER - AMERICANS AGAINST TRADING - COLUMBIA SUPPORT NETWORK - ALLIANCE FOR A JUST SOCIETY - DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA - LABOR NOTES - NOSTRADO.ORG - AFL-CIO - HAITIANS AGAINST THE TPP - COMMUNITY FOOD AND JUSTICE COALITION - NEW RULES FOR GLOBAL FINANCE - NATIONAL CONSUMERS LEAGUE - CITIZENS TRADE CAMPAIGN - GREENSPACE USA - SMOKE FREE USA - HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM - MICHIGAN WISCONSIN FARM TRADE COALITION - UNITED STEEL WORKERS (USW) - LABOR STANDARDS PROJECT - LATINO SOCIAL INNOVATION - FRIENDS OF BRAD WEL - NOT FOR CHANGE, INC. - JUST TRADES POLICY - WOMEN FOR PEACE - FRIENDS OF THE EARTH - UNITED STATES FRONT PARTY - NEW YORK CLIMATE ACTION GROUP - ROCHESTER COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA - COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA - METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT - AFL-CIO - UNITE/IBEW/UNIVERSALIST GLOBAL AID COALITION - UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY - FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION - FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE - FOOD & WATER WATCH - PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) - UNIONVIEW.COM

Bipartisan, national poll conducted January 2014 by Hart Research and Cheseapeake Beach Consulting.

KICK BRUNEI OUT OF TPP TALKS

Democratic and Republican members of Congress are calling on American trade negotiators to kick Brunei out of Trans-Pacific Partnership trade talks until its sultan revokes a new Taliban-like penal code that violates human rights.

“Tell Brunei to address its human rights violations as a condition before the U.S. engages in further talks,” a group of 119 House members wrote in a letter to U.S. Sec. of State John Kerry and U.S. Trade Rep. Michael Froman. This campaign was led by Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), and Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Rosa DeLauro (D-CT); Louise Slaughter (D-NY); and Henry Waxman (D-CA), focused on the threat to lesbians, gay men, women and religious minorities in Brunei due to the country’s new Sharia-like law.

Separately, several prominent national lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality organizations sent a letter to President Obama with the same demand, as did a coalition of women’s organizations. Pride at Work, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and the National Center for Transgender Equality called on the administration to insist that Brunei revokes its new penal

code or face being dropped from the TPP altogether.

When the third and final phase of the new law is implemented in Brunei, gay men and lesbians, and people convicted of adultery, would be stoned to death for their supposed “crimes.” Other punishments will include whippings and amputation, Amnesty International said.

“WE’RE NOT PROTECTIONISTS. WE WANT TO BE FAIR TRADERS. BUT WE’RE NOT FOOLS.”
 —House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi



Why should CWA members care about the Democracy Movement? In 2012 we spent \$7 billion on the federal election. Because the Supreme Court said money equals speech, the wealthiest can give unlimited dollars to politicians. At the same time, states are making it harder to vote, cutting voting hours, early voting, polling places, adding new ID requirements and limiting workers' rights to collective bargaining. With no voice for workers, we will see even more legislation that benefits the 1 percent and hurts workers.

FAITH BASED WORKERS/UNIONS CIVIL RIGHTS/COMMUNITY

THE MORAL MONDAYS CAMPAIGN is Spreading Its Wings into Other States

The Rev. William Barber recalls his first reaction when he got the invitation to bring his 'Moral Mondays' message to North Carolina's Mitchell County in the Appalachian Mountains.

"I said, hell, I ain't going up there," Barber said, a smile playing on his face because, of course, he did go up there.

The reason for his hesitation is understandable. Barber is president of the North Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Mitchell County, by Barber's reckoning, is 99% white, 89% Republican and conservative to boot.

"When we got there," he said, "we found those mountain folks had lost their textile jobs so they believe in labor rights. They need the unemployment. They have sickness in the mountains. They believe in voting rights and they need public education."

"Moral Mondays" grew in response to a radical turn by North Carolina lawmakers and elected leaders. A cadre of conservative Republicans came into office, controlling the state legislature and governorship. Almost immediately, they drastically cut funding for public education and unemployment benefits. They cut taxes for corporations and terminated the earned-income tax credit for 900,000 low-wage workers. They refused to expand Medicaid that would have provided health care for at least 300,000 low-income North Carolinians. And they topped it off by rewriting state election laws to make registration and voting harder, especially for African-American, blue-collar, and younger voters.

In response, the coalition led by Rev. Barber has been growing. CWA activists have joined the weekly actions, some joining in acts of civil disobedience by refusing to leave the North Carolina Capitol Rotunda until they were removed by police. The arrests have led to charges and trials. But they also have led to a groundswell of support and new

alliances in the state, among the NAACP, environmental, women's, LGBT, labor, immigrant, and religious organizations. One weekend in February, more than 80,000 people turned out for the Moral March in Raleigh.

"When we build a movement, when we come together, across all of these lines, we can change and shift the discussion and the center of gravity," Barber says.

Meanwhile, a moribund state commission—the Legislative Services Commission, which hadn't changed its rules in 27 years and hadn't even met in 15 years—was resuscitated by legislators to try to stop the message of "Moral Mondays." The commission suddenly created a rule that calls for the arrest of anyone who "might pose an imminent threat of a disturbance," even if that person hasn't done anything.

That sparked an even bigger, but silent protest, as thousands of activists marched through the Capitol, two by two, in silence, with tape over their mouths. The protests are continuing, and spreading.

In South Carolina, activists started a "Truthful Tuesday" movement. In January, people in Georgia have formed Moral Monday Georgia, and the group has held civil disobedience actions in the Georgia State Capitol and been arrested for protests over Medicaid expansion.

A Moral Monday coalition is coming together in Binghamton, N.Y., with activists from unions, people of faith and community organizations. "Ethical Thursdays" are bringing thousands of Mississippi activists to the state capitol in Jackson, Miss. "Put the People First" is a Moral Monday movement in Tennessee, organized by activists from faith groups, unions and worker alliances, Jobs with Justice, the NAACP, Citizen Action and many more. In Tallahassee, Fla., CWAers joined members of the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and others in a Moral



More than 80,000 activists rally at the state capitol for a Moral Monday protest. Below, in Tennessee, CWAers and activists are building a movement to "put the people first." Bottom left, CWAers and allies rally in Mississippi.



Monday rally that called on the Florida legislature to "have some morals and raise their standards when it comes to enacting laws."

"Secure pro-labor, anti-poverty, that's a moral agenda. Educational equality for everybody, that's a moral agenda. Health care for all and environ-

mental protection, that's a moral agenda. Fairness in the justice system for poor white people and blacks and browns and protecting and expanding voting rights and women's rights and LGBT rights and immigrants rights and fundamental equal protection under the law," Barber said.



“We’re in a time where corporations are treated like people and people are treated like things”

-Rev. William Barber





Why should CWA members care about Money in Politics? The Supreme Court declared that corporations are people and money equals speech. The wealthiest Americans and corporations benefit from unlimited money in politics and use it to make sure the Chamber of Commerce agenda is followed on Capitol Hill. This makes it almost impossible to gain laws and regulations that benefit workers.



CWA TOWN HALL CALL TAKES ON MONEY IN POLITICS

How to get Big Money out of Politics was the focus of June's telephone town hall call. Several thousand activists, from CWA and allies Public Citizen and People for the American Way, joined as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, CWA President Larry Cohen and leaders from key partners outlined a path forward to restore democracy and get big money out of politics.

Marge Baker, executive vice president for People for the American Way, and Rob Weissman, president of Public Citizen, President Cohen and CWA D1 Legislative-Political Director Bob Master discussed what's happening now to restore the first amendment rights of ordinary people, by stopping the flood of money and corporate and Super PAC contributions that threaten to obliterate the power of the people's vote.

Weissman said, "We're seeing people get engaged and mobilized on this issue as they never have before, and all of us are building a big democracy movement. This work not only will affect what we can accomplish on this amendment but will enable us to take on corporate power in ways we haven't done before to restore our democracy.

"As a result of this work, we're going to win public financing in states around the country and eventually in Congress. And we'll move forward on this amendment to restore the right of the Senate and states to regulate political spending."

Baker said, "This is an historic moment. The Senate subcommittee voted to take back our Constitution, to take back our first amendment rights from the Supreme Court that totally mauled it in the Citizens United and McCutcheon cases. After the full committee votes, we will have a vote in the Senate and we're working to make certain that a majority of the Senate supports it.

"It will be a long haul, so we have work to do. We have the July 4 recess and the August recess, and there are many things that can be done, including patriotic events, and it's really important that our Senators hear from us."

CWAers and allies made 5,000 calls to their Senators' offices for the June 18 vote, pressing them to support this effort to restore the first amendment rights of ordinary Americans.

Cohen said building a democracy movement is the only way to take our country back from the richest of the 1 percent, like the Koch brothers, and the Chamber of Commerce.

"The Chamber of Commerce makes sure we won't have Employee Free Choice, that we won't have decent labor laws. Anything that working people want or need in the country, the Chamber of Commerce is on the other side.

"Some CWAers might say, 'well, that's true, but I'm in a contract fight, or we've just lost jobs. What is the connection?' Big money in politics and the other blocks to real democracy are exactly why we're losing our jobs and why we don't have any decent labor laws in this country.

"We got into building a democracy movement with allies because there is no path to decent labor law or to bring back decent retirement security and pensions in this country. We need to make that path. The money in politics, the \$7 billion spent in the last election is an absolute block to any of the things we care about."

Learn more about events over the July 4 and August congressional recess at www.moneyout-votersin.org. And make sure you're on the next town hall call. Go to www.cwa-union.org/monthlycall or see page 2 for more information.

REID: 'WHAT A SYSTEM'

Senate Majority Leader Reid talks money in politics on CWA's town hall call.

"What a system. Two guys—the Koch brothers—trying to buy the world. Now they've decided that they're going to spend another \$300 million this election cycle."

"So we have to do something to get money out of politics. The Koch brothers and all their minions are not only trying to buy the Senate and the House but they're involved in state legislative races and other state office races. This amendment grants Congress the authority to regulate and limit the raising and spending of money for campaigns. It's essential."

"It also provides states with the authority to institute campaign spending limits. The proposed limits would make our nation's campaigns transparent and fairer and would allow candidates to represent their voting constituents instead of competing billionaire groups."

"One of the organizations that we have to overcome every election cycle is the Chamber of Commerce. The Koch brothers are probably the largest contributors to the Chamber of Commerce, and of course that money is used directly against us."

Congress, States Working to Get BIG MONEY OUT OF POLITICS

With allies Public Citizen, People for the American Way and more, CWA activists are pushing ahead on a Constitutional Amendment to repair the damage done by the U.S. Supreme Court's *Citizens United* and *McCutcheon* decisions. *Citizens United* basically said corporations are people and threw out restrictions on their political spending. The *McCutcheon* decision went even further, enabling just one super-wealthy donor to contribute up to \$5.9 million to candidates, campaigns and PACs. It's "pay to play politics," not democracy.

The Supreme Court may be confused about money and speech, but ordinary Americans aren't. The Constitutional Amendment would restore the right of Congress and the states to regulate political spending and return our democratic process to the people – where it belongs.

The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee approved a Constitutional Amendment, (S.J. Res 19), introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) on June 18; next stop is a full Judiciary Committee hearing.

The Government by the People Act, introduced by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and John Sarbanes (D-Md.), will change how we finance our elections by encouraging candidates to rely on a large number of small donations from their constituents back home, instead of funds from the 1 percent, corporations, super PACS, special interests, lobbyists

and Wall Street. It would empower ordinary voters and hold members of Congress accountable to the people who put them in office, not the biggest bankroll.

The DISCLOSE Act will require that donors to political advertisements be clearly identified with those named in the ad, just like candidates for Congress are required to do in ads financed by their campaigns.

In the States California now requires non-profit groups that contribute secret or "dark money" to political campaigns to reveal their secret funders when they spend more than \$50,000 in state campaigns in one year, or more than \$100,000 over four consecutive years. The measure also requires committees that push for or against ballot measures to release a list of the top 10 contributors who gave \$10,000 or more, if they raise at least \$1 million.

New York State is closer to campaign finance reform, following this year's state legislative

session and work by CWAers and ally activists.

Sixteen states and more than 500 local governments have called on Congress to overturn *Citizens United* through ballot initiatives, resolutions or other measures, with strong public support for reform.

PRESIDENT ELECTED BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE? **AMEN**

The day is getting nearer when the person who wins the most votes in a presidential election is the one who becomes president of the United States.

New York State added its considerable weight to that growing national movement in April when Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation committing New York to give its 29 electoral votes for president to the candidate who receives the majority of the national popular vote.

New York joins nine other states and the District of Columbia that have agreed to award their electoral votes for president to the candidate who wins the most votes in the election. National popular vote preserves the Electoral College but ensures that every vote in every state will matter in every presidential election. Supporters are more than halfway to making national popular vote a reality.

Since it takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency, the National Popular Vote laws would go into effect only if states accounting for 270 or more electoral votes agree to the new system.

For big states like New York and California, the incentive for making candidates fight for every vote is that they become relevant again. Right now, most presidential elections are fought in swing states. Now, candidates will speak directly to voters in every state.

Every vote really will count.



Why should CWA members care about the Senate rules? The Senate's 60-vote rule blocked employee free choice in 2009 and every other decent labor law reform. If labor law reform had passed, more workers would have bargaining rights and wages would be increasing, not stagnating.

SENIORS WORKERS/UNIONS FAITH BASED CIVIL RIGHTS/COMMUNITY



UPDATE ON SENATE RULES

Over the six years of the Obama administration, Senate Republicans have used gridlock and obstruction to block progressive legislation and executive branch and judicial appointments from moving forward.

The Senate remains dysfunctional, but the Senate rules campaign led by CWA and allies, that resulted in two rounds of rules changes last year, has resulted in action on executive and judicial nominations.

CWA, working with the Fix the Senate Now coalition, was a driving force in winning the rules changes that helped break Senate gridlock and allow the president's nominations to receive an up-or-down vote. In summer 2013, 2 million members of Fix the Senate Now organizations mobilized to make sure the Senate confirmed a full, five-member National Labor Relations Board and leaders for top agencies including Richard Cordray to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Gina McCarthy to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

Later in the year, activists from CWA, Alliance for Justice, Sierra Club, Common Cause, USAction, Daily Kos, NAACP, UAW, NY Citizen Action, Working Families Party and others again revved up mobilization, with 200,000 members of those groups generating calls and emails to their senators.

That rule change meant a simple majority vote could confirm executive and most judicial appointments, and the pace of confirmation has quickened. Although Republicans continue to slow down confirmations and Senate business overall, without the arbitrary 60-vote threshold to advance a nomination, more judges are getting confirmed. In May, for instance, the Senate confirmed 22 judicial nominees.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid credited CWA and President Cohen for leading the fight to change the Senate rules.

Reid: "We changed the rules because we had to change the rules. Did we change them enough? Time will only tell, but now I have just four district court judges awaiting confirmation, and one circuit court judge. I have two that reported out of committee today."

"For the first time since I can remember, a majority of the federal circuit courts now have Democratic presidential appointments. That's pretty good."

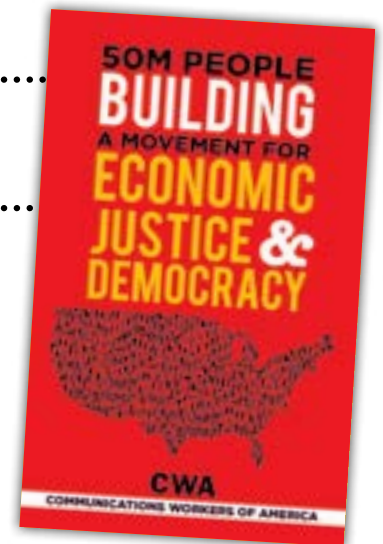
Still, too many bills never get to the Senate floor for debate, crushed by the Senate rules, despite the fact that a majority of the Senate supports them, like programs to benefit working families, from extending unemployment insurance to support for veterans to a bill to allow students to refinance their crushing student loan debt.

The broken Senate rules remain a real block to democracy and to programs that benefit working families.

A HOW-TO FOR ACTIVISTS

Want to learn more about how CWA activists are helping to build a movement for economic justice and democracy? Check out the latest version of our movement building booklet. Download it at www.cwa-union.org/economicjustice.

This booklet is filled with graphs and charts that make it clear that working families are losing ground, unless we join together with other membership organizations to fight back. Case studies spotlight our successful campaign to mobilize millions and save the NLRB, along with fights we still need to win, on bargaining rights and comprehensive immigration reform.



Download the CWA Movement Builder app and receive information directly on your phone.



GET NEWS IN REAL TIME.

- Be the first to know about events and opportunities for action in your area and breaking news.
- Earn points by taking action, checking in to events, and sharing information on Facebook and Twitter.
- Send photos easily from your phone to CWA.

WWW.CWA-UNION.ORG/APP

Apple, the Apple logo, and iPhone, are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Android and Google Play are trademarks of Google Inc.