

Committee Leader to Testify Against 'Salting'

Right to Work Members Press For Votes on Truth in Employment Act

Eager to increase the pressure on Congress to crack down on the extortionate union-boss tactic known as "salting," National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix has accepted an invitation to testify before a U.S. House panel later this month.

Mr. Mix and several other witnesses will present evidence about salting to the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs.

This subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.), who since first being elected in 2002 has proven herself to be one of Capitol Hill's most steadfast defenders of the Right to Work principle.

Tactic's Aim: Either Impose Forced Unionism, or Cripple the Business

Legislation pending in both chambers of Congress, known as the Truth in Employment Act, would remove the federal authorization for Big Labor's salting of firms, usually small firms in the construction industry, with union militants.

The union militants, known as "salts," typically aim to do one of two things: Either force the firm's loyal employees to accept union monopoly bargaining and pay union dues, or inflict severe economic harm, even bankruptcy, on the business.

Union bosses pay or simply order salts to apply for jobs so they can drum up so-called "unfair labor practice" charges and glean information to find and harass a firm's clients.

Salting is thus designed to blackmail employers into handing loyal employees over to Organized Labor bosses without the employees' consent.

The Truth in Employment Act, sponsored in the House as H.R.1816 by Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) and in the Senate as S.983 by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), would sharply curtail salting abuses.

It wouldn't end federally-imposed compulsory unionism, which is the root of the problem.

But it would allow employers to refuse to hire union saboteurs who are employed and paid by Big Labor bosses to help force a business's employees to accept monopoly union representation.

Currently, employers who refuse to hire union saboteurs face heavy fines and other penalties.



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Rep. Steve King (left) and Sen. Jim DeMint have both introduced the Truth in Employment Act, which

would repeal the federal authorization for Big Labor "salting" of independent businesses.

At a February 2004 House hearing on Big Labor salting, Mr. Mix showed how salting works in practice.

President Mix Previously Testified About Bullying Of Nebraska Family Firm

Mr. Mix recounted the bitter experience of a masonry firm owned and operated by Charles and Linda Walz and their two daughters in Omaha, Neb.

Mr. Walz "started out in the trades as a union man, but soon figured out he could provide better service at lower prices for customers by going out on his own, union-free," Mr. Mix testified.

"Before long, his company was flourishing. His clients were happy and so was his small but growing army of employees. But Charley's success came at a price.

"The bigger Charley's company grew, the more union officials wanted to force his employees under union monopoly 'representation.'

"When Charley's employees resisted the unwanted advances of union organizers, the 'salting' began.

"Charley's company was fined \$20,000 by the NLRB [National Labor Relations Board], after having spent double that on legal expenses, for failing to hire union 'salts.'

"Yet videotaped evidence, supplied by

Charley's lawyers, showed that the union salts had refused job applications that were offered to them by Charley's daughter.

"Charley is still in business. He was able to survive the union's salting campaign, but many are not so lucky."

Most Newsletter readers who received this month's issue in the mail will find enclosed with it a letter from Mr. Mix regarding the Committee's campaign to stop salting and postcards addressing their congressmen and senators.

Right to Work Members Urged to Help Recruit Salting Bill Cosponsors

Mr. Mix urges Right to Work members and supporters to sign and mail right away the postcards asking their elected officials in Washington, D.C., to cosponsor and seek recorded votes on H.R.1816 and S.983.

"Thanks to Committee members' recent success in building Right to Work strength on Capitol Hill," argues Mr. Mix, "there is reason to hope the Truth in Employment Act can be passed by Congress and signed by President Bush before November 2006.

"But for now we must focus on building up the number of House and Senate cosponsors. And achieving that goal alone will require a nationwide mobilization of Right to Work supporters." 