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'Disenchanted' With Big Labor Appeaser *In New Mexico, Primary Voters Say 'No' to Another Republican*

Last summer, when Big Labor was ramming its so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" through the U.S. House, dozens of GOP congressmen and women with strongly pro-Right to Work constituencies were led to believe this legislation was a bone they could throw to Big Labor.

Now more and more of these elected officials, along with their Big Labor-appeasing counterparts in the U.S. Senate, are learning that this legislation, numbered H.R.980 and S.2123 in the current Congress, is in reality a deeply unpopular forced-unionism power grab.

The latest Republican politician to learn this bitter lesson is New Mexico Congresswoman Heather Wilson.

After her home state's senior senator, Pete Domeneci (R), announced he would not seek reelection this year, Ms. Wilson decided to seek the GOP nomination for the seat of the man who had been her political mentor.

Heather Wilson Voted For Big Labor Power Grab, Then Doubled Down

However, Ms. Wilson's July 2007 vote for H.R.980, and even more her subsequent decision to ignore the pleas of pro-Right to Work New Mexicans that she repudiate that vote and pledge to oppose such legislation in the future, turned out to be significant political liabilities for her Senate candidacy.

"All politicians make mistakes. Some mistakes cost more than others," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"However, the better politicians are ready to listen to well-informed constituents, especially constituents who have supported them in the past, who



Congresswoman Heather Wilson Bustin' Out

Many of the rank-and-file Republican voters in New Mexico who strongly oppose forced unionism banded together

last month to deal a stern rebuke to Big Labor-appeasing Congresswoman Heather Wilson.

criticize a vote they have cast. And if a politician then decides that he can no longer justify a vote, he repudiates it.

"That's not what Heather Wilson did. She both cosponsored H.R.980 and helped Big Labor Democrats steam-roll it through the House, and then, when freedom-loving New Mexicans protested, she doubled down.

"But now she has paid a steep political price for her decision. And she isn't the first House member to do so."

Congressmen Burton, Jones Admitted Error, Survived Stiff Primary Challenges

"Back in February," continued Mr. Mix, "GOP Congressman Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland, who had first voted for H.R.980, then rebuffed

constituent entreaties that he change his position, was defeated by 100% pro-Right to Work challenger Andy Harris.

"And last summer, Virginia Congressman Tom Davis was widely considered by the media to be the favorite to capture the GOP nomination for the Senate seat opening up as a result of fellow Republican John Warner's announced retirement.

"However, Mr. Davis soon learned that his vote for H.R.980 had cost him critical support among Republican Party officials in the Old Dominion. After it became apparent he couldn't win the nomination, Mr. Davis announced last December he wouldn't run."

In contrast to Mr. Gilchrest and Mr. Davis, GOP Congressmen Dan Burton

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Voters Disapprove Union Monopoly

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(Ind.) and Walter Jones (N.C.) survived major primary challenges this spring after they came to fully understand the impact of H.R.980 and promised not to support the measure in the future.

But this June 3, Ms. Wilson, whose House district includes Albuquerque and some of its suburbs, was defeated in the GOP Senate primary by Congressman Steve Pearce, who represents the southern half of New Mexico.

Unlike Ms. Wilson, Mr. Pearce took a strong stand against H.R.980 during the primary campaign and pledged to oppose all such measures as well as other forced-unionism legislation if elected to the Senate.

Bill Would Institute Federal Public-Safety Union Monopoly-Bargaining Mandate

H.R.980/S.2123 would establish a new federal mandate imposing union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) over state and local police and firefighters and other public-safety employees in all 50 states.

It would force countless policemen, firefighters and EMT's to accept as their monopoly-bargaining agent a union they never voted for, and want nothing to do with.

Ever since last summer's House roll call, Committee members and supporters have been, through letters, phone calls, and personal visits, expressing their disappointment with all the politicians who voted for this legislation.

And well before the New Mexico primary campaigns heated up, Committee President Mix spoke personally with Ms. Wilson to request that she change her pro-H.R.980 position and pledge to oppose such legislation consistently in the future.

Only after the congresswoman refused to change course did the Committee, in the weeks before the New Mexico primaries, send out a series of three mailings to mobilize pro-Right to Work households to contact her and urge her to stop appeasing the union hierarchy.

Right to Work Issue 'Made a Real Difference' in Primary

But Ms. Wilson also decided to spurn the pleas of freedom-loving New Mexicans. Not only did she refuse to back away from her vote for H.R.980, she brazenly vowed, on her Right to Work candidate survey, to continue supporting such legislation in the future!

In the end, Ms. Wilson, who had been widely expected to win the GOP Senate primary, suffered a stinging defeat.

"Since the Committee's list of members and supporters in New Mexico includes over 58,000 names, and Ms. Wilson ultimately lost the primary by fewer than 3000 votes, it would seem fair to surmise the Right to Work issue made a real difference in the New Mexico primary," noted Mr. Mix.

"GOP voters in the Land of Enchantment have sent a message that they are disenchanted with Republican elected officials who try to 'finesse' the forced-unionism issue. It's a message to which GOP politicians across the country should pay heed."

In this fall's U.S. Senate race in New Mexico, Mr. Pearce will face off against Big Labor Democratic Congressman Tom Udall.

Throughout his five terms in the House, Mr. Udall has been at the union hierarchy's beck and call, voting to expand union monopoly privileges and strip independent-minded workers who don't wish to join a union of the few rights they retain.

Now It's Tom Udall's Turn to Feel the Heat

For example, in the current Congress, besides voting for H.R.980, Mr. Udall

also gave a thumbs-up to H.R.800, the House version of the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill.

H.R.800 and its Senate companion, S.1041, would rewrite federal labor law concerning so-called "card checks" to make it even easier for Big Labor to obtain monopoly-bargaining control over private-sector employees at workplaces nationwide.

"For several reasons, including especially the unpopularity of the Bush Administration in New Mexico, Tom Udall is now considered to be the favorite in this fall's Senate race," said Mr. Mix.

"But the vast majority of New Mexico citizens clearly do not favor forced unionism, which Mr. Udall slavishly supports.

"Within a few short months, the Committee will again mobilize freedom-loving New Mexicans across the state to contact Mr. Udall and ask him to stop carrying water for the union bosses. If he refuses to heed this call, the Committee intends to keep raising the heat on Mr. Udall until Election Day.

"The fact is, compulsory unionism is nearly as unpopular with the New Mexico electorate as a whole as it is with the state's GOP primary voters.

"And unless Mr. Udall figures out how to get on the right side of New Mexico citizens on the Right to Work issue, this fall's U.S. Senate race in the Land of Enchantment may well turn out to be much more competitive than many pundits are forecasting." 📞



Steve Pearce's pledges to oppose the federalization of union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-

safety employees and support a national Right to Work law resonate with many New Mexico voters.

CREDIT: KEDU RADIO, RUIDOSO, N.M.