

In response to an April 18 anti-Right to Work hit piece in the *Denver Business Journal*, National Right to Work Committee Newsletter Editor, Stan Greer, penned the following Letters to the Editor:

April 22, 2008

Letters to the Editor
Denver Business Journal
(Submitted via email)

RE: April 18 news article “Right-to-work: Right or wrong?”

Pro-forced unionism Colorado State University professor Ray Hogler (as quoted in reporter Bob Mook’s April 18 article on efforts to make Colorado a Right to Work state) manifestly errs when he claims “there’s absolutely no correlation” between the share of a state’s employees who are forced to accept a union as their “exclusive” bargaining agent in contract negotiations and that state’s economic growth.

According to the U.S. Commerce Department, the real GDP of the U.S., in chained, 2000 dollars, grew by 15.3% from 2000 to 2006 (the most recent year for which state-by-state data are available). But the aggregate real GDP of the 12 states with the highest share of private-sector employees under union “exclusive” bargaining (as reported on the <http://unionstats.com> web site) in 2000 grew by just 11.7%. Meanwhile, the aggregate real GDP of the 12 states with the lowest share of private-sector employees under union monopoly control grew by 21.2%. Pace Dr. Hogler, that demonstrates a very strong negative correlation between “exclusive”-bargaining density and economic growth.

There is also a strong positive correlation between the presence of a state Right to Work law, which bars the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union, and economic growth. And this is true in all parts of the country. In the western part of the U.S., for example, the aggregate real GDP of Right to Work states grew by 28.8% from 2000 to 2006, far faster than the western forced-dues state total of 17.8% and nearly double Colorado’s real growth of 15.6%.

There isn’t sufficient space in a letter to the editor to correct the many erroneous statements by Dr. Hogler and other forced-unionism proponents in Mr. Mook’s article. But it should be obvious from the above data alone that Dr. Hogler et al are completely unreliable sources on the topic of Right to Work laws.

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