



LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

August 26, 2008

The Honorable Joe Courtney
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN
General President

Dear Representative Courtney:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) for passage of H.R. 6438, the National Guard Technician Recruitment and Retention Act. LIUNA represents over 500,000 workers throughout North America, including more than 5,000 National Guard civilian technicians in 9 states. Both the International Union and our ten National Guard Local Unions thank you for your introduction of this important legislation.

National Guard civilian technicians are known as "dual status" employees, because although they are civilian employees, they must retain membership and serve in the National Guard as a condition of their civilian position. National Guard civilian technicians are governed by the Technician Act of 1969, 32 USC 709, which limits the rights of this group of civilian federal workers. Your legislation will go a long way toward ensuring fairness for the civilian technicians that we represent.

Specifically, passage of H.R. 6438 would greatly benefit the National Guard civilian technicians that we represent by allowing them to receive and keep enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses, participate in student loan repayment programs, and have the opportunity to receive overtime pay for overtime worked. These changes to current law will certainly help to ensure that National Guard civilian technicians are treated more fairly under the law.

Again, we thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 6438 and look forward to working with you to ensure that passage of this important legislation. Please contact Danielle LeClair in LIUNA's Public Employees Department at 202-639-4145 or dleclair@liuna.org with any questions.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN
General President

dlc
Attachment

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