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SUPREME COURT DECLINES TO HEAR UAW ATTEMPT TO OVERTURN BUSH “BECK POSTER” EXECUTIVE ORDER

(WASHINGTON, DC)—This morning the U.S. Supreme Court denied the petition of the United Auto Workers to review a decision from the D.C. Circuit upholding President Bush’s Executive Order 13201. This Order requires federal contractors to post notice that employees cannot be forced to financially support unions’ political agendas and projects.

The last three Presidents have issued Executive Orders on this issue, stemming from the Supreme Court’s decision in *Communications Workers of America v. Beck*. President George H.W. Bush first issued Executive Order 12800 on April 13, 1992, requiring posting—an order that was revoked by President Clinton on February 1, 1993. President George W. Bush issued his own Order on February 17, 2001, reinstating the posting requirement.

Ironically, in order to have legal standing to bring the lawsuit, the UAW had to sue in its capacity as an employer. They argued against the Executive Order as if it is a burden on businesses, a strange argument for a union to make. However, the supposed “burden” forced on businesses by posting a single sheet of paper is not the real concern. Rather, the concern is that the union will lose funding for its pet political agendas and projects if workers are informed that they cannot be forced to pay for them.

In response to the Supreme Court’s decision, SUPA’s President Linda Chavez said, “The basic right of workers to decide for themselves what political agendas they want to pay for should be protected. It’s appalling that the UAW is so desperate to keep workers in the dark.” Chavez added, “We’re hopeful that today’s decision sends a message that future efforts by unions to keep workers in the dark will not be tolerated.”

SUPA is a grassroots lobbying organization dedicated to rolling back the unfair power of labor unions to force workers to pay for unions’ political agendas as a condition of employment.

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