



SEAWAY TASK FORCE COALITION

LABOR UNDER ATTACK

The Labor Movement has never been without its challenges. We would have to go back to the 1920's to find a time when our rights have been under attack such as they are today.

Last year, the first wave of union members, their families, their friends and neighbors had entered the state house in Madison to launch what became the "We Are Wisconsin" campaign. They were fighting against legislation to do away with collective bargaining for public sector workers – including teachers, police officers, and firefighters.

The measure passed, but the battle didn't stop there. The grassroots campaign of unionists and their allies successfully recalled two state senators and are in the midst of recalling the governor. Similar movements repealed almost identical anti-collective bargaining legislation in Ohio and held firm to sustain the New Hampshire Governor's veto of a right-to-work (for less) bill.

Nationally, forces coalesced under the "We Are One! Respect Our Rights" banner. In the fall, the "Occupy Wall Street" encampment in Manhattan protesting corporate greed and power expanded around the world and included worker's rights as a cause.

The rights of unions and their members remain under attack. Indiana joined the ranks of those states with right-to-work (for less) governing its work sites. In Washington, D.C., opponents of the labor movement have introduced legislation that would impose right-to-work (for less) standards in all 50 states.

In Maine, the governor removed a mural from its Labor department that reflected the history of workers in that state.

Nothing is sacred, Social Security, Medicare, Davis-Bacon, or Project Labor Agreements are important worker protections that are being targeted for repeal or curtailment.

We continue to fight. Worker's rights must be respected. What has been fought for, worked for, and earned must be kept.

The Seaway Task Force pledges to carry on the fight.