



Contact: Josh Anijar
Florida AFL-CIO
Phone 850-224-6926
Cell 850-228-9841

135 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Mike Williams, President

Florida AFL-CIO

Press Release

ICYMI – Records Release Raises Troubling Questions: Who Does the Florida Chamber of Commerce Represent? Floridians or Out-of-State Special Interests?

A recent investigative report based on numerous emails between Legislative leaders and the Florida Chamber of Commerce clearly demonstrates that the recent attacks on workers' rights and their ability to participate in Florida's political process were not driven by any state policy need but by the desires of wealthy, out-of-state special interest groups tied to the now infamous Koch Brothers.

The report by Beau Hodai for "In These Times" provides a glimpse into the well-coordinated and well-financed national attack on workers over the past several months and how the Florida Chamber of Commerce worked in concert with national organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), key Legislators like Representative Chris Dorworth and Legislative staff to move a national agenda that had nothing to do with Florida's jobs crisis, the budget deficit or serving the people of our state.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce claimed that they were working to help stimulate the economy and create jobs in Florida but this report makes it abundantly clear that their real motivation was to satisfy the ideological agenda of big money interests outside Florida.

Mike Williams, President of the Florida AFL-CIO offered these remarks on the report. "Our members are very active in their communities. They care about our schools, infrastructure and the critical services that improve our quality of life. A healthy economy is vital to those concerns. While the Florida Chamber of Commerce was claiming to be working in the best interests of our state and our economy, the documents and emails referenced in this report prove that they were obviously more concerned with the extremist agenda of out-of-state billionaires like the Koch Brothers. The attacks on union members were never about our economy, the budget or good public policy. They were about dragging our state into an ideological war being waged by billionaires that we just don't need. Fortunately, there was a bipartisan group of Legislators focused on the real needs of Florida's families that wanted no part of it."

To Read the Investigative Report:

http://inthesetimes.com/article/11603/publicopoly_exposed

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