INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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December 19, 2005

Dear Senator:

Next month the Senate is expected to consider the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to be an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Based on our review of his past writings and judicial decisions, the UAW opposes his confirmation.

While serving on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Alito's opinions have consistently reflected a narrow, constricted interpretation of statutes protecting worker rights. In particular, his opinions have excluded state employees from coverage under the Family and Medical Leave Act, denied overtime to newspaper reporters, vacated OSHA citations, absolved corporate officers from liability for unpaid wages, and exempted a company from having to notify workers about an impending plant closing. He even issued a solitary dissenting opinion that would have criminalized "no docking" rules that have been a common industrial practice.

In addition, Judge Alito's opinions in race and gender employment discrimination cases have reflected a restrictive interpretation of civil rights laws that would make it much more difficult for women and minorities to obtain remedies when they are the victims of discrimination. We are especially troubled by Judge Alito's statement in a 1985 job application that he was "particularly proud" of his work in the Reagan Administration to restrict affirmative action and limit remedies for racial discrimination. We are also disturbed by his 1985 writings disagreeing with the concept of "one man, one vote".

The UAW believes that nominees to the Supreme Court must demonstrate that they hold views that are within the judicial mainstream, and are committed to supporting the rights of workers, minorities and women. Unfortunately, we believe that Judge Alito fails to meet this essential test. Accordingly, the UAW urges you to oppose his nomination to the Supreme Court.

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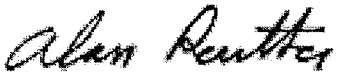
Thank you for considering our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Alan Reuther
Legislative Director

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