



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645
(734) 222-6850
FAX (734) 222-6715

TO: Felicia Brabec
Chair, Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Yousef Rabhi
Chair, Board of Commissioners

FROM: Andy LaBarre
Chair, Working Session

DATE: February 6, 2013

SUBJECT: 2013 "Right to Work" Resolution

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested the Board of Commissioners pass a resolution which formally condemns the passage of "Right to Work" in the State of Michigan.

BACKGROUND:

On December 11, 2012, Governor Rick Snyder signed "Right to Work" legislation passed in the lame duck session of the 96th session of the Michigan Legislature. The legislation is designed to weaken labor unions and their ability to serve their members.

DISCUSSION:

Washtenaw County has had a long beneficial relationship with the labor unions representing our County workforce. In addition, Washtenaw County has served as host to various labor conventions and training sessions for the past 30 years with the EEI Union Training Programs; United Association Instructor Training Program; NJATC National Training Institute; Ironworkers Instructor Training Program; and others.

The annual positive economic impact of such events for the County is approximately \$12 million; with 22,000 hotel room nights in Washtenaw County; representing 31% of the total rooms booked by the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau; resulting in \$2.3 million in spending at local restaurants and \$3.5 million in spending on entertainment, recreation, shopping/retail, and transportation at local businesses. Washtenaw Community College serves as a world leader in union training and has signed a new Training Agreement with Australia – UA of US, Canada and Australia.

Both local and visiting Labor groups have made positive social impacts for Washtenaw County residents.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

None

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

None

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

None

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

None

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

Conforms to County Policies

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:

- Resolution

A RESOLUTION INDICATING THAT THE WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FORMALLY CONDEMS THE PASSAGE OF "RIGHT TO WORK" LEGISLATION IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 20, 2013

WHEREAS, on December, 2012, Governor Rick Snyder signed "Right to Work" legislation, which was passed in the lame duck session of the 96th session of the Michigan Legislature; legislation designed to weaken labor unions and their ability to serve their members; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has long had a beneficial relationship with labor unions representing our County workforce, which assist in the provision of customer service to our citizens as union membership can lead to productive tenures for employees; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has served as host to various labor conventions and training sessions for a collective thirty years with the EEI Union Training Programs; United Association Instructor Training Program; NJATC National Training Institute; Ironworkers Instructor Training Program; and others; and

WHEREAS, the annual positive economic impact of such events for the County is approximately \$12 million; with 22,000 hotel room nights in Washtenaw County; representing 31% of the total rooms booked by the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau; resulting in \$2.3 million in spending at local restaurants and \$3.5 million in spending on entertainment, recreation, shopping/retail, and transportation at local businesses; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw Community College serves as a world leader in union training and has signed a new Training Agreement with Australia – UA of US, Canada and Australia; and

WHEREAS, both local and visiting Labor groups have made positive social impacts for Washtenaw County residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners formally condemns the passage of "Right to Work" legislation in the State of Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners seeks to notify all of its labor partners that it does not support the economic arguments for and assumed outcomes espoused of “Right to Work” proponents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners calls on the Michigan Legislature to provide swift passage of SB 95 and SB 96, which would repeal “Right to Work.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners seeks to continue the long and successful partnerships the County, its businesses, organizations, and citizens have had with various labor organizations by re-affirming the value derived from these relationships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners re-affirms its support for the rights of labor organizations and members to exercise their rights to the fullest possible extent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator and the Director of Human Resources to engage in expedited negotiations, as requested by the Unions, with the goal of reaching four (4) year agreements to protect and extend each bargaining unit's union security provisions, as well as enter into a Letter of Understanding separate from the existing collective bargaining agreements for a period of ten (10) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Washtenaw County delegation to the Michigan Legislature, the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and any and all labor groups deemed appropriate by staff.