

NEWS

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Office of the Minority 270-2892

Flora Fasoldt: 466-1703 Peter Grimm: 273-1500

www.rensselaercountygov.com

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2009

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATORS SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT HELPS CREATE FAMILY SUSTAINING JOBS

Troy— On Tuesday, February 24th, Rensselaer County Legislator Flora Fasoldt (D/WF) will be introducing a resolution in support of the Employee Free Choice Act, federal legislation in Congress that will remove barriers that workers face when they try to join or form a union. Fasoldt's support for the measure resulted from a forum that was held by the Capital District Area Labor Federation on Saturday, February 21st which brought together over 200 union members, elected officials and small business owners from the Greater Capital Region.

“The Employee Free Choice Act makes sense for our communities,” said Fasoldt. “If the majority of employees in a workplace decide that they want to form a union, they should have the freedom to do so free of coercion and intimidation. Working men and women in our region are feeling the squeeze of the current economic crisis, and as elected officials we need to be supporting legislation that can help working families make ends meet.”

Legislator Peter Grimm echoed Fasoldt's sentiments, saying “In the worst economic climate since the Great Depression, working people are struggling to make ends meet: wages are dropping, pensions are disappearing, and our middle class is crumbling. The passage of the Employee Free Choice Act will help give a voice to the middle class and help begin rebuilding our middle class.”

At Saturday's forum, Fasoldt and Grimm joined over 50 other local and statewide elected officials to learn more information about this important piece of legislation. The best way for working men and women to get ahead is by uniting with co-workers to bargain with their employers for better wages and benefits. On average, union members make 28% more in wages, and are 52% more likely to have job-provided health care.

“I applaud Legislator Fasoldt and Grimm for taking a stand on this important piece of legislation,” said Capital District Area Labor Federation President Joe Fox. “I encourage all legislators in Rensselaer County to support this resolution when brought to the floor to send a clear message to our Congressional representatives, United States Senators and President Obama that New Yorkers want to see the Employee Free Choice Act pass this legislative cycle.”

The Capital District Area Labor Federation is part of the AFL-CIO, and represents over 100,000 union members and their families in the Capital District. For more information on the Employee Free Choice Act please visit: www.aflcio.org.