

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL UNION NO. 150, 150B, 150A, 150C, 150RA, 150D, 150G, 150M

AFFILIATED WITH THE A.F.L.-C.I.O. AND BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT

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United States Department of Labor
Washington, DC

RE: Comment on "Persuader" Rule Advice Exception

I strongly support the Department of Labor's ("DOL") proposed rule that employer consultants and lawyers report so-called "persuader" activity that was previously considered "advice." I also believe it is essential that the DOL improve its enforcement of the requirement that consultants be required to report direct "persuader" activity.

I have worked as a Union organizer and business agent since 2006. My responsibilities continue to include organizing activities in Indiana. Throughout the time I have worked as an organizer, I have participated in dozens of organizing campaigns involving hundreds of employees.

A few years ago, we successfully organized a Company known as Indiana Toll Road Concessions. This Employer operates the Indiana Tollway since it was privatized by the State. During that campaign, the Company hired lawyers to run its anti-union campaign. Those lawyers conducted direct meetings with employees, and prepared and distributed campaign propaganda. That propaganda included a booklet made up of materials drawn from the websites of the candidates who ran against the Union's current officers in the last Union election.

I think it is essential that employer consultants and attorneys be required to report such activities. Employees have a right to know this in order to make an informed decision.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS,
LOCAL 150, AFL-CIO

Tom Lanham
Organizer