

New Labor Department Nominee, Solis, Unions' Pick

Barack Obama's new pick for Secretary for the Department of Labor, Los Angeles-area congresswoman Hilda Solis is finding comfort in the support that farm workers and labor organizers are giving her.

Solis, at a news conference Friday, 12-19-08, a daughter of Mexican immigrants said she will, *"work to strengthen our unions and support every American in our nations' diverse workforce."* She delivered some of her remarks in Spanish.¹

Take from that what you will. However, when Solis—the first Hispanic chief of the Department, further denounces the last-minute revisions to the foreign guest-worker program that agricultural interests, including farmers were glad to see, one begins to wonder where her loyalties lie.

Indeed, recently she is quoted as saying, *"There is no question that the guest-worker program needs significant overhaul, but slashing wages and reducing basic rights for the most vulnerable workers in our country, especially hardworking Latino farm workers, is not the answer..."*²

Excuse me? She wants to protect "hardworking Latino farm workers?" Since when did the United States Department of Labor see as its mission to **'especially'** protect a predominately illegal segment of aliens within our borders? I thought they were **'especially'** charged with the duty of protecting United States citizens?

Anybody else see a problem with this? Well, stick around and read further...

Also from the *Miami Herald* in a December, 2008 article:

"We are pleased," Bruce Goldstein, executive director of the Farmworker Justice Fund (a rabid migrant advocacy group that makes a living from suing agricultural interests, farmers and getting into their pockets) said Friday of the Solis nomination. "She has demonstrated a longtime interest in empowering migrant farm workers to improve their wages and working condition, and their health."³

Read enough yet? Sorry. But there's more...and you won't like it...

"In 2006, for instance, she signaled her sympathies by introducing a congressional resolution honoring United Farm Workers co-founder Dolores Huerta. She introduced separate legislation honoring the late UFW President Cesar Chavez, through a study of adding lands associated with Chavez's work to the National Park Service system."

"Substantively, Solis earned a 100 percent vote rating from the AFL-CIO last year. Like most other House Democrats from California, she earned 0 vote rating from the National Council of Agricultural Employers."⁴

Wait! It gets worse. The "About Change to Win" organization—a consortium of seven different unions and claims of up to six million workers, issued this statement on another site:

"Our nation's leaders must act immediately to implement a bold new agenda that promotes sustainable, long-term economic growth. The Employee Free

Choice Act is a vital component of any economic recovery program and its passage will help end the wage gap, reform our health care system, and provide retirement security.”⁵

Of course, the *Employee Free Choice Act*, as most people have heard by now, is that one that takes away the right of every American to vote by private ballot in elections involving union activity. It effectively destroys your right to privacy and freedom from persecution, as the union activists will see your vote and pressure you for your vote—or worse yet, possibly use it as leverage to have you terminated.

¹ Michael Doyle, “Labor nominee Solis is a longtime ally of farm workers,” 12-19-08. Website at: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics/AP/story/820088.html> (accessed 1-11-09)

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Washington, Jan. 9 /PRNewswire, “Change to Win Statement on Rep. Hilda Solis Confirmation Hearing,” reprinted on website at: <http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/01-09-2009/0004952109&EDATE=> (accessed 1-11-09)