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# GOP filibuster kills 'Bring Jobs Home Act'

Co-sponsored by Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon, the bill provided an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America

WASHINGTON (PAI) — A Senate Republican filibuster once again killed a pro-worker bill that would end tax subsidies for U.S. companies that ship jobs overseas, and reward U.S. companies that bring jobs back to the United States. Republicans filibustered essentially the same bill in 2012.

S. 2569 — the Bring Jobs Home Act — had majority support in the Democratic-controlled Senate, but 60 votes were needed to end a GOP-led filibuster. [Keep in mind, there was no actual debate taking place. It was a 'silent' filibuster.] A July 30 vote didn't reach the mark, falling 54-42.

The Steelworkers lobbied hard for the bill. The union's delegation visited

lawmakers the week before the vote, and union President Leo Gerard wrote to each senator, urging its passage. Union members also sent a flood of phone calls and e-mails to senators.

"Commerce Department data show during the 2000s that U.S. companies cut their workforces in the United States by a staggering 2.9 million jobs, while simultaneously creating 2.4 million jobs overseas," Gerard said. "Too many of our tax policies continue to reward multinational companies — companies that have for far too long been offshoring jobs — regardless of the harm caused to ordinary working Americans and the nation's treasury, as they forgo paying taxes for doing so."

Chamber of Commerce pressure rounded up enough Republicans to kill the bill.

"Steelworkers members understand the importance of this vote. We will not give up on this important jobs legislation, and will make it a benchmark of Election 2014 for senators up for re-election," Gerard said.

Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, an original co-sponsor of the bill, said: "It's incredibly frustrating that a minority of senators are blocking this common-sense measure. In Oregon, manufacturing is the backbone of our state's economy. If we don't make things in America, we won't have a middle class in America."

The Bring Jobs Home Act was the latest in a line of union-backed pro-worker bills that fell victim to Republican filibusters in the GOP-hamstrung 113th Congress. The others included three tries to extend federal benefits for the long-term jobless, and an equal pay for equal work bill.

All of the filibusters point up the contrast between the two parties in the run-up to the November election, where Democrats defend 21 of the 35 available Senate seats.

Fifty-one Democrats and both independents voted for cloture to end debate so that an up-or-down vote could be taken on the Bring Jobs Home Act. They were joined by Maine Republican Susan Collins.

Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) was the lone Democrat to vote against cloture. Three Republicans and a Democrat did not vote.

# Kitzhaber

## Governor 2014

## Labor's Choice for Governor

"John Kitzhaber puts workers first — it's why he negotiated the deal that got anti-union measures off the ballot, it's why he's personally called on employers to stay neutral during organizing drives and bargain in good faith, and it's why he's looked for new ways to grow jobs in Oregon and bring us out of the recession."

— **Tom Chamberlain**  
 Oregon AFL-CIO President

"Gov. Kitzhaber shares our core belief that the key to economic growth and prosperity is the creation of family wage jobs. His economic development plan, focus on attracting industrial sector jobs to the region, his effort to raise the median income of Oregonians, and his commitment to bring vocational training back into the classroom leaves no doubt that he is the leader Oregon needs."

— **John Mohlis**  
 Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council  
 Executive Secretary

"Time and time again Governor Kitzhaber has stood with the private sector to organize a union and raise standards for our communities."

— **Meg Niemi**  
 SEIU Local 49 President

"There are two things we like about John Kitzhaber - nobody owns him and his door is always open. He's always going to be honest and he is always going to do what he feels is in the best interest of Oregon."

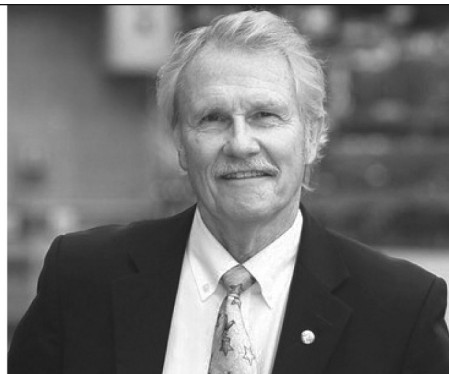
— **Ken Allen**  
 AFSCME Council 75 Executive Director

"We are proud to be an early endorser of Governor Kitzhaber. As firefighters we've seen the effects of the recession on the ground, with more families relying on emergency medical services and other safety net programs. John Kitzhaber has the on-the-job experience and character we need to create jobs, protect public safety and stand up for front line firefighters and all Oregon families."

— **Kelly Bach**  
 Oregon State Firefighters Council President

"Oregon Nurses support Governor Kitzhaber and applaud his focus on access to quality, affordable health care for all Oregonians."

— **Katy Cooper, RN**  
 ONA President



### ENDORSED BY:

- AFSCME Council 75
- IATSE Studio Mechanics Local 488
- Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48
- Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 280
- Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters Joint Council 37
- Intl. Union of Operating Engineers Local 701
- Intl. Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 5
- Ironworkers Local 29
- Oregon AFL-CIO
- Oregon District Council of Laborers
- Oregon Nurses Association
- Oregon State Building & Construction Trades Council
- Oregon State Firefighters Council
- Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters
- SEIU 49 & 503
- UA Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 290
- United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
- UNITE HERE Local 8
- United Steelworkers Union of Oregon

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