

AFL-CIO opposes Supreme Court nominee Gorsuch

The national AFL-CIO has launched an online petition to urge senators to oppose President Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, to a lifetime appointment.

Gorsuch, 49, is a very conservative judge from the federal Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. He routinely has voted against the interests of working people when it comes to safety on the job and discrimination in the workplace, and he has denied workers' efforts to secure earned wages and benefits.

For example, Gorsuch ruled against a truck driver who was fired after refusing to drive an



Neil Gorsuch

unsafe vehicle or wait in freezing temperatures for road assistance to arrive—despite six other judges upholding the driver's claim.

"He is far more likely to rule in favor of corporate interests and against the interests of working men and women," the AFL-CIO said in a statement.

Senate Democrats are mounting a filibuster of the nomination, led by Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley.

"Nominating a right-wing judge to the seat that was stolen from President Obama in a

brazen attempt to pack the court is enormously damaging to the integrity of the Supreme Court," Merkley said. "If this tactic succeeds, it will set a dangerous new precedent and I'm determined to resist it. I will filibuster this illegitimate nomination."

Additionally, Democrats say the vote should be postponed until the FBI completes its investigation of possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 election cycle.

Republicans hold 52 seats in the Senate. They need 60 votes to break the filibuster. A confirmation vote could take place as soon as April 7 (after this issue went to press).

The Supreme Court vacancy was created in February 2016 following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Then-President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland, a moderate chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. But the Republican-controlled Senate refused to hold confirmation hearings—a partisan scheme unprecedented in American his-

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tory, Merkley said.

"The next justice confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court will play a critical role in shaping and enforcing the laws that protect working people," the AFL-CIO said.

ONLINE EXTRA

To see the AFL-CIO's review of Gorsuch's record in workers' rights cases go to our website at <https://nwlabourpress.org>.

To add your name to the AFL-CIO petition, go to bit.ly/2oWzcSa

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Letter Carriers prepare for May 10 food drive

Letter carriers in the Portland metropolitan area and in Clark County, Wash. will help "Stamp Out Hunger" on Saturday, May 13, part of the 25th annual National Association of Letter Carriers and U.S. Postal Service Food Drive.

According to the Oregon Food Bank, an estimated 240,000 people get meals from emergency food boxes in an average month.

To help, letter carriers will deliver plastic bags to every household a few days before the Food Drive. All you have to do is fill the bag with nonperishable food items, and leave it at your mailbox on the morning of May 13. Letter Carriers will collect the bags and deliver them to drop points, where volunteers will sort the donations and forward them to the Oregon Food Bank. Food collected in Clark County will benefit Clark County hunger-relief agencies.

The Food Drive raises more than 1.5 million pounds of food each year for the Oregon Food Bank. It is the largest one-day food collection of the year in Oregon — and in the nation.



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