



afl-cio

Joseph P. Rugola
PRESIDENT

Pierrette M. Talley
SECRETARY-TREASURER

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

November 10, 2010

Dear Ohio AFL-CIO Executive Board Member:

I have been asked many times in recent days what it is we intend to do in the wake of November 2.

That question has been put to me by trade unionists, by our candidates who lost and won, by reporters, and by progressive activists.

My answer has been the same to all who have inquired about our intentions and our spirits. **We intend to keep fighting.** As I traveled the state over the 15 months leading up to election day, I said over and over again that we would still be a trade union movement after November 2 and that we would still be fighting for working families and the middle class.

For the past 30 years, the current Republican Party has advanced a simple agenda – the concentration of more and more wealth in fewer and fewer hands. This has led to the greatest income inequality in our history. Tax, trade and economic policies have all been designed to accelerate that trend.

For his entire political career, John Kasich has been a fervent advocate of those policies. As governor, he will continue to champion the interests of the investor class and the super-rich. We will fight to stem and reverse that tide by standing up for working families and the middle class.

In my speech to the Ohio AFL-CIO Convention in September, I spoke these words, "What did we expect? That the other side would cede power to us for another four years because our candidates are good people and our cause is just? It was never going to be easy. Our movement was not born in a peaceful agreement between capital and labor that we should benefit from a fair distribution of the wealth we create. It was born from struggle and blood, sweat and tears, and the sacrifices of generations of working men and women."

I believe those words to be as true today, and I believe they represent the fight ahead of us.

We will fight for a reindustrialized America because the national and economic security of our country depends on it. We will fight to protect and enforce prevailing wage because, as even the Republican party once understood, strong communities depend on it. We will fight for responsible public budgets because the vital services that preserve our democracy and our society depend on it.

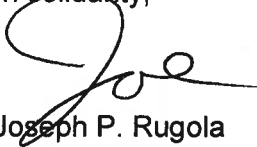
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The trade union movement has always understood that the struggle is generational and historic, not based in one election cycle.

That is why the fight on November 3 was the same fight as before the polls closed on November 2. We do it better than anyone else, so let's get back to work now.

God bless each of you.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe", written over the printed name "Joseph P. Rugola".

Joseph P. Rugola