Dear Member of Congress,

We are writing in opposition to the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. The PRO Act, introduced by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), passed the House on March 9, 2021 and is pending Senate consideration.

We oppose the PRO Act because the legislation would harm workers and taxpayers by codifying many of the Obama-era rules and decisions that led to higher unemployment and a stagnant economy. Representatives who vote for this bill are simply helping labor union bosses, their campaign contributors, at the expense of American workers.

For example, one of the Act’s harmful provisions would codify the National Labor Relations Board’s 2015 *Browning-Ferris Industries* decision. That decision expanded the definition of joint employer and increased liability for many businesses, especially franchises. In fact, the International Franchise Association has found that the expanded joint employer rule costs the franchise sector as much as $33.3 billion annually and has led to 376,000 lost job opportunities. Codifying this NLRB decision would effectively eliminate this business model, putting many employees and small businesses out of work. However, big labor would benefit from this provision because they could unionize these employees more easily.

This bill would also force all private sector workers to pay fees to labor unions, whether they wanted to support them or not. This would effectively invalidate all state Right-to-Work laws and would deny First Amendment rights to these workers. This provision hurts workers because right-to-work laws have benefited workers. From 2008 – 2018, for example, the percentage growth in the number of people employed in right-to-work states was 10.8%, while the percentage for those in forced-unionism states was much lower at 5%. Invalidating these laws would, therefore, hurt workers and employers, but would provide more dues to unions.

Another business model that is severely threatened by this legislation is the gig economy. The PRO Act would codify California’s “ABC” test to determine who is an independent contractor and who is an employee. This test makes it harder for employers to hire independent contractors, but makes it easier for unions to unionize workers. According to the Federal Reserve, about 3 in 10 Americans work in the gig economy, and these workers would be at risk for losing their jobs.

Because the legislation harms workers in order to help labor union bosses, we strongly urge Members of Congress to vote against the PRO Act.
Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

James L. Martin
Founder/Chairman, 60 Plus Association

Saulius “Saul” Anuzis
President, 60 Plus Association

Marty Connors
Alabama Center/Right Coalition

Bethany Marcum
CEO, Alaska Policy Forum

Phil Kerpen
President, American Commitment

Lisa B. Nelson
CEO, ALEC Action

Tom Giovanetti
President, Americans for a Strong Economy

Rick Manning
President, Americans for Limited Government

Scot Mussi
President, Arizona Free Enterprise Club

John Palatiello
President, Business Coalition for Fair Competition

Garrett Ballengee
Executive Director, Cardinal Institute for WV Policy

Andrew F. Quinlan
President, Center for Freedom and Prosperity

Russell Brown
President, Center for Independent Employees CEO, RWP Labor, LLC

Timothy Lee
Senior Vice President of Legal and Public Affairs, Center for Individual Freedom

Catrin Wigfall
Policy Fellow, Center of the American Experiment (Minnesota)
Chuck Muth  
President, Citizen Outreach

Bob Luebke  
Director of Policy, Civitas Institute (North Carolina)

David McIntosh  
President, Club for Growth

Russell Hollrah  
Executive Director, Coalition to Promote Independent Entrepreneurs

Nathan Benefield  
Vice President & COO, Commonwealth Foundation (Pennsylvania)

Trey Kovacs  
Policy Analyst, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Matthew Kandrach  
President, Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE)

Tom Schatz  
President, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Katie McAuliffe  
Executive Director, Digital Liberty

Grant Callen  
President, Empower Mississippi

Brian Minnich  
Executive Vice President, Freedom Foundation (California, Oregon, Washington)

Adam Brandon  
President, FreedomWorks

Suzi Voyles  
Georgia President for Eagle Forum

Victor Riches  
President and CEO, Goldwater Institute (Arizona)

J. Scott Moody  
CEO, Granite Institute (New Hampshire)

James Taylor  
President, The Heartland Institute

Peter J. Ferrara  
Senior Fellow, Heartland Institute

Tim Chapman  
Executive Director, Heritage Action for America
Mario H. Lopez
President, Hispanic Leadership Fund

Fred Birnbaum
Vice President, Idaho Freedom Foundation and Idaho Freedom Action

Heather R. Higgins
CEO, Independent Women's Voice

Jon Caldara
President, Independence Institute

F. Vincent Vernuccio, J.D.
President, Institute for the American Worker

Chris Ingstad
President, Iowans for Tax Relief

Sal J. Nuzzo
Vice President of Policy, The James Madison Institute (Florida)

Brett Healy
President, The John K. MacIver Institute for Public Policy (Wisconsin)

Becki Gray
Senior Vice President, John Locke Foundation (North Carolina)

Dave Trabert
President, Kansas Policy Institute

Connor Boyack
President, Libertas Institute (Utah)

Michael J. Reitz
Executive Vice President, Mackinac Center for Public Policy (Michigan)

Matthew Gagnon
CEO, Maine Heritage Policy Center

Carl Copeland
Executive Director, Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance

Tim Jones
Chair, Missouri Center-Right Coalition
Fmr. Speaker, Missouri House

Jameson Taylor, Ph.D.
Vice President for Policy, Mississippi Center for Public Policy

Pete Sepp
President, National Taxpayers Union
Bill O'Brien  
Co-chair of the New Hampshire Center Right Coalition

Robert Fellner  
Policy Director, Nevada Policy Research Institute

Douglas Kellogg  
Executive Director, Ohioans for Tax Reform

Tom Hebert  
Executive Director, Open Competition Center

Daniel J Erspamer  
CEO, The Pelican Institute for Public Policy (Louisiana)

Lorenzo Montanari  
Executive Director, Property Rights Alliance

David Y. Denholm  
President, Public Service Research Council

Eli Lehrer  
President, R Street Institute

Mike Stenhouse  
CEO, Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity

Paul J. Gessing  
President, Rio Grande Foundation (New Mexico)

Bette Grande  
CEO, Roughrider Policy Center ND

Karen Kerrigan  
President & CEO, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Maureen Blum  
Founder and Principal, Strategic Coalitions & Initiatives, LLC

Jeff Kropf  
Representative (Ret) Oregon House of Representatives, Oregon Taxpayer Coalition

David Williams  
President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Lynn Taylor  
President, Tertium Quids (Virginia)

Christian N. Braunlich  
President, Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy (Virginia)

Carl Bearden  
CEO, United for Missouri
Rick Esenberg  
President and General Counsel, Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty  
Worker Rights Alliance (Washington)

Heather Greenaway  
Executive Director, Workforce Fairness Institute

Carol Platt Liebau  
President, Yankee Institute for Public Policy (Connecticut)