



West Virginians United for Social and Economic Justice

Media Release / Advisory for 10-02-10

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WV Labor and Community Groups to Join ONE NATION WORKING TOGETHER March for JOBS, JUSTICE AND EDUCATION

Four to Five Hundred from WV expected to join October 2 March in Washington D.C.

Charleston WV – Heeding a call to Put America Back to Work and Pull America Back Together - in response to the floundering economy, thousands of jobs lost every month, and declining public school systems, tens of thousands of Americans from all backgrounds and states are expected to rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on October 2 in support of the One Nation Working Together movement.

“Every person in this country deserves to live the American Dream: a secure job that will support a family, a safe home and quality education. We can no longer be diverted by skewed priorities like unnecessary military spending or bailing out large, but failing, financial institutions,” stated Larry Matheney, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia AFL-CIO, who will be one of the hundreds of West Virginia union members boarding the bus for Washington in the wee hours on Saturday.

The busses, ten in all, will fill with West Virginians from all over the state – Huntington, Charleston, Princeton, Beckley, Parkersburg, Clarksburg, Fairmont and Morgantown. Communications Workers of America (CWA) are providing the buses along with a box lunch for all activists making the trip.

“We know that when Americans of all ages, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, place of birth, race, color, beliefs or abilities work together we are victorious as we were with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, groundbreaking legislation protecting the rights of women in the workplace, or with the monumental healthcare reform law signed earlier this year. Both happened in no small part due to the hard work of a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals committed to investing in the American people,” explained Gary Zuckett, Chair of the West Virginians United for Social and Economic Justice Coalition. “With nearly 10% of U.S. workers unemployed and an economic recession that drags on, the time for Americans to stand up is now”, said Zuckett.

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“One Nation Working Together happens at a historic moment in this country,” says Ben Jealous, national president of the NAACP. “We have sparked a coalition that is truly representative and united – conservatives and progressives, immigrants and native born people, college students and senior citizens, veterans and peace activists, believers and non-believers, unemployed and CEOs. Our commonality is our love for this country and the conviction that we must replace divisive politics and hate with a shared vision for our children and grandchildren’s futures. “

“We are serving notice to all elected officials,” he adds. “We will march on October 2 and we will march again on November 2 into the voting booths. The true majority in this country is people like us and we cannot be ignored.”

One Nation Working Together is a coalition of more than 170 human and civil rights organizations, labor unions, and environmental, ethnic, peace, youth and student, and faith-based organizations who have come together to refocus our national priorities on greater investments in the wellbeing of all Americans.

To read the One Nation Working Together Call to Action, visit:
www.onenationworkingtogether.org

Photo or Video opportunity: Approximately 150 of the activists going to D.C. on October 2nd from the Charleston area will be boarding buses at 3 a.m. on Piedmont Road (the road behind the State Capitol).

For additional information about One Nation Working Together, please contact Gary Zuckett at 346-5891 or garyz@wvcag.org.