



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3887

Chairman
THOMAS E. DERNOGA
Council Member, 1st District

January 28, 2010

Mr. Gino Renne
UFCW Local 1994, MCGEO
600 S. Frederick Avenue, Suite 200
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Re: *Support for "Libraries – Collective Bargaining" bill*

Dear Gino:

I write to express my strong support for proposed legislation to permit employees of library systems in Maryland to join unions for the purpose of collective bargaining.

For many years now, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO has worked to support Prince George's County and Prince George's County Library employees. I laud your efforts in working with a coalition of County Council Members to successfully advocate for an increase in library staff during FY2006, FY2007, and FY2008. Due to your efforts, our library system experienced the largest increase ever in staff during a three-year period in our county. Your union's successful effort in securing Deputy Sheriff coverage in six county libraries to assist with security has made a world of difference in the quality of the library experience for our patrons as well as our employees.

All employees deserve the right to organize. As currently drafted, the legislation strikes the right balance between respecting the rights of those employees who choose to organize and those who choose not to organize. Library employees would be allowed,

County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Jan. 4, 2010

but not compelled, to organize a union to negotiate terms of employment with management.

Additionally, I see no cause for concern from a management perspective. The proposed legislation prohibits unions from interfering with the rights given to management, and requires unions to bargain in good faith. Library employees would be prohibited from engaging in a strike or work slow down. A neutral third party would be allowed to mediate and/or issue a fact-finding report, but neither side would be bound to this report. Library trustees would retain the right to ratify any agreement with a fiscal impact.

Thank you again for everything you do for the library employees of Prince George's County. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 301-952-3887.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. Dernoga", written in a cursive style.

Thomas E. Dernoga

cc: Bob Stewart

lcm