



# COUNCIL 238 UPDATES, AUGUST 8TH

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## 1- Our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Union

Hi all- I was informed on Friday that the US EPA is no longer going to be recognizing our Union contract. While this is incredibly disappointing news, it does not come unanticipated. What this means immediately is that Union officers will no longer have access to official time for representational work, and that the articles of the contract will no longer be respected by management.

This does not mean that the Union no longer exists, far from it. **We are not going anywhere as long as we stand together.** More practically speaking, Council 238 and Local Officers have contingencies in place to continue representing employees, organizing and pushing back on these illegal assaults on our rights, and this is only possible with your support through dues but also through your own actions.

It is in fact more important now than ever for you to involve yourself in your local, so reach out to your local leadership asking how you can help. We will be working with our allies from all over the country to fight back against these actions, and we need everyone to be engaged as the Union in order to make our way through these difficult times.

Please make sure to attend our **Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, 8/13 at 1:30PM EST** to learn more about the situation and our path forward. Here are the Zoom webinar details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82761015226?pwd=HXgntlcmQpgXwhrm3UcQav3QAv90WJ.1>

Meeting ID: 827 6101 5226

Passcode: 349849

In solidarity,

Justin Chen,  
President, AFGE Council 238

## 2- In the meantime, TAKE ACTION!

Take action on the discharge petition for HR 2550 “Protect America’s Workforce Act,” pending in the House of Representatives! “PAWA”, which Rep. Jared Golden (D-Co) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced on April 1, **would restore collective bargaining rights to 1.5 million federal employees, including those at EPA.** The Administration is curtailing our right to a contract and all of the protections, flexibility, and dignity it affords.



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PAWA has over 222 cosponsors, but requires a discharge petition to bring it to the floor. Right now- we don't have enough discharge petition signers to force a vote on the House floor. 209 House members have currently signed the petition. **Do you reside in a District that has a relatively moderate House GOP member? We need you to make a plea to them! If you are willing to help, please contact your union president and 704afge@gmail.com.**

**DISSENT LETTER ACTION!** Since June 30, 140+ of our colleagues have been placed on admin leave after speaking out in a letter critical of Administrator Zeldin's dangerous abandonment of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. In support of our members, Congresspeople are signing onto a letter demanding an end to the retaliation-- **the letter closes on Monday 8/11!!** Please reach out to representatives in your region, asking them to sign onto the letter. Find the list of who has already signed-on and some template language [here](#).

Additionally, a Congressional letter opposing the dissolution of ORD has been sent around and amassed 90+ signers!



### 3- OEJECR RIFs

Regarding the OEJECR RIFs, we have sought legal opinion on what can be done to forestall the issue. Our legal counsel has conferred with the affected members and provided their opinion on legal options. At the national level, **the lawsuit concerning these RIFs and reorganizations without congressional approval continues on**, but the stay of the injunction stopping these actions remains. We will bring any updates on the situation to the membership as it develops, we continue to fight for all of our jobs.

Reminder to reach out to your Local President and get involved. We're still going to fight to protect one another, we just have different tools at our disposal. As we adjust to that new reality, we need everybody.

## Stay together!



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