

Fellow CWA Members,

Recently, the Freedom Foundation, an anti-union extremist organization with operations in Washington state, Oregon and California requested your personal information from the City of Columbus, including your name, work email address, pay and home address. Providing this organization with your home address would have violated your privacy, opened you up to identity fraud and allowed them to circulate your personal information to other extremist organizations and individuals. But that is what the Freedom Foundation demanded.

The City of Columbus did not provide your home address to the Freedom Foundation. However, your full name, work email address and rate of pay had to be provided in response to its public records request. This is a very serious matter. The Freedom Foundation is funded by the Koch Brothers, the DeVos Family and the anti-union Bradley Foundation and are part of a network of groups including the Buckeye Institute, State Policy Network, ALEC and others that are trying to destroy public sector unions. They are part of a network of groups that brought us Senate Bill 5 in Ohio, the *Janus* lawsuit in Illinois and who continue to try to get Right to Work legislation passed in states around the country. They are advancing an anti-worker and anti-union agenda, to reduce wages and benefits, eliminate pensions and privatize government jobs.

In other states, the Freedom Foundation has used union members' personal information to harass them to try to get them to opt out of their union. They have come to members' homes, visited their worksites and sent them spam emails at work. What will these extremists do with your information? We believe they are planning to solicit you at work (for example, in parking lots and at your work location), send you spam and even confront you at your home if they can figure out how to use the information they now have to track down where you live. Why are they doing this? They do not have your best interest at heart, only theirs.

The Freedom Foundation wants to take away our ability to negotiate for better wages and benefits and have a secure retirement. This is our next Senate Bill 5. But just like Senate Bill 5, Ohioans aren't buying what they're selling. Ohio voters overwhelmingly repealed that damaging, anti-worker law. Ohio's unions, including CWA, have continued to fight and win better compensation, benefits and working conditions for the employees we represent. That is why the Freedom Foundation is targeting union members like you.

The Freedom Foundation is telling members they can drop out of the union and still get all of the benefits without paying dues. But we know that's not a winning strategy. Our members understand that strength at the bargaining table requires the membership to stand in solidarity with one another and their union. That is especially important as we get ready to start negotiations over your pay, benefits and working conditions with the City of Columbus. Each one of us needs to stick together in support of our union and to protect our bargaining rights.

If you are contacted by an anti-union pusher from the Freedom Foundation, don't sign anything and ask them to remove you from their list. If you receive an email from this deceptive organization, forward it to [MyUnion@cwa4502.org](mailto:MyUnion@cwa4502.org) You can also visit <https://weareohio.com/> for more information. In order to fight back, tell your co-workers about how the Freedom Foundation is threatening everyone's wages, benefit and working conditions. Most importantly, stay involved in CWA Local 4502. It's your Union and we need to keep it strong for all of us.

Fraternally,

Susan L. Wilson  
President