



ROB WALKER  
Assemblyman 15th District  
Nassau County

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October 7, 2008

John B. Clark, Chairman  
SUNY Research Foundation  
P.O. Box 9  
Albany, NY 12201-0009

Dear Chairman Clark,

A group of Research Assistants who work for the SUNY Research Foundation (SUNY RF) at Stony Brook University have expressed an interest in obtaining union representation. They have approached the Communications Workers of America (CWA), which has represented 4,500 Teaching Assistants for the last 15 years. CWA, in turn has approached us.

During the Pataki Administration, the SUNY RF aggressively campaigned against unionization as soon as it learned that its employees desired collective representation. We find such anti-worker behavior disturbing, particularly by an entity that is publicly funded.

Instead, we urge you to seek an agreement through which the SUNY RF and CWA can agree to an increasingly common procedure: employer neutrality and card check recognition. Rutgers University, CWA and the American Federation of Teachers recently implemented a model neutrality and card check procedure with great success.

In its agreement with CWA and AFT, Rutgers University agreed to stay strictly neutral with respect to unionization and to recognize the union if a majority of employees signed a union card. The agreement also allowed the union reasonable access to the workplace. As a result, over 1000 Rutgers administrative assistants made a choice for representation free from intimidation.

The SUNY RF similarly should honor its workers' right to make representational decisions free of unfair anti-union propaganda. We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience to reach an agreement for a card check recognition and employer neutrality between the SUNY RF and CWA.

Sincerely,

ROB WALKER      TOM ALFANO      BOB BARRA      TOM McKEVITT  
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