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NEWS RELEASE

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Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Joins Thirteen Unions In Filing Lawsuit Stating Trump Executive Orders Violates the Rights of Congress and Federal Workers

WASHINGTON – The Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO has joined together with a coalition of 13 unions, representing 300,000 federal workers employed in hundreds of occupations ranging from pipefitters and welders at naval shipyards to teachers in Department of Defense Dependent Schools, to NASA rocket scientists in suing the Trump administration today for violating the rights of government workers to be represented by unions in their workplaces.

The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court of the District Columbia.

“On May 25, the Friday before Memorial Day, President Trump signed three executive orders that the affiliated unions of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, contends violated the due process and collective bargaining rights of workers employed by the federal government, stated Metal Trades Department President James Hart. The President’s executive order is an attack on our hard working members and their rights.”

The unions’ lawsuit specifically addresses:

- Several sections of Executive Order 13836 (concerning time sent representing workers by union officials) usurp Congress’s legislative authority. The same executive order prohibits representatives from using official time to “prepare or pursue grievances (including arbitration of grievances) brought against an agency,” but allows it for employees working on their own behalf. Treating a union and its representatives differently from individual employees encroaches on a union’s right to take collective action.
- Executive Order 13837 (concerning due process rights) violates rules related to collective bargaining delegated to the Federal Labor Relations Authority, not the President.
- Executive Order 13839 (concerning merit principles) is an attempt to exclude matters from the negotiated grievance procedure, such as removals based on misconduct and incentive awards.

The 13 unions that are party to the Federal Workers Alliance lawsuit are:

Federal Education Association/National Education Association (FEA/NEA)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, AFL-CIO (IFPTE)
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, AFL-CIO (MEBA)
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO (MTD)
National Association of Government Employees, SEIU (NAGE)
National Federation of Federal Employees, IAMAW, AFL-CIO (NFFE)
National Labor Relations Board Professional Association (NLRBPA)
National Labor Relations Board Union (NLRBU)
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
Seafarers International Union/NMU, AFL-CIO (SIU)
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