



**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

May 12, 2008

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

**On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers union (USW), I urge you to support the "Public Safety-Employee Cooperation Act of 2007 (S. 2123)".**

Everyday millions of emergency personnel risk their lives to ensure the safety and security of the American public yet many of these workers lack basic collective bargaining rights. S. 2123 would ensure that public safety officers in all states have basic rights which include:

- 1) The right to bargain over wages, hours and working conditions;
- 2) A dispute resolution mechanism, such as a fact-finding or mediation;
- 3) Enforcement of contracts through state courts

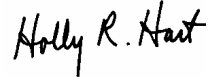
This legislation does not present a possible risk to public safety as it would prevent strikes and work slowdowns by firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel. It would simply establish minimum basic collective bargaining standards (which most states already have) that state laws must meet, and give states the responsibility of enforcing and implementing these laws.

S. 2123 provides the opportunity for the men and woman who work on our front lines each day to have a voice with their employers on the issues that are critical to them and the people the work to protect.

In the Senate, S. 2123 has garnered strong bi-partisan support with 28 sponsors that include 11 Republicans. Companion legislation (H.R. 980) passed the House by a vote of 314 to 97, and included the support of 98 Republicans.

Again, we urge your support of this legislation that would help strengthen collective bargaining rights for our nation's emergency response workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly R. Hart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Holly R. Hart  
Legislative Director

HRH/rdb