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House of Representatives

HONORING SAN DIEGO COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY & AIRPORT WORKERS: SOL PRICE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION OF THE YEAR AWARD!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proclaim that organized labor is often the sole force fighting for the rights of not just union members, but all workers.

This was seen this past fall when union workers at the airport stood up for the rights of all concession, parking and restaurant workers by bringing forward a worker retention policy at the San Diego Regional Airport Authority.

Up until then, workers had no job protections in the event of new contractors taking over business at the airport. If a shop or restaurant lost its lease, every employee working there could lose their job.

Led by Airport Authority chairman Robert Gleason, the agency brought workers into the search for a solution. Workers were not only given a voice in the process, but their opinions and concerns were valued as expert testimony on the importance of the Airport Authority providing a sense of job security for workers with as many as 35 years of experience.

Even when delays in the process occurred, it was due to Airport Authority commissioners believing that they could accomplish even more through their policy.

By a final vote of 7-to-1, the Airport Authority eventually passed a worker retention policy that will protect airport workers. The vote proved that all parties can win when the voices of workers are taken into consideration.

It gives me a great honor Mr. Speaker, that in light of their passage of a worker retention policy, I join with the Executive Board of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council in honoring the San Diego Regional Airport Authority and Airport Workers with the 2010–2011, “Sol Price Spirit of Cooperation Award.”