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Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc.

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Members of State Unit 2:

Some of you recently received correspondence from a member of State Unit 2, Matt Kruse who is an Investigator with the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. Mr. Kruse urges you to begin the process to change labor representation. He wants you to leave your Union, the FOP Ohio Labor Council and engage the services of a Cincinnati/Kentucky based private law firm instead.

I am the Executive Director of the FOP Ohio Labor Council. A few years ago, an issue was brought to me by members of State Unit 2 and I addressed it immediately. The request was to have an Attorney at the bargaining table and State Unit 2 was assigned FOP/OLC Attorney Doug Behringer. Doug has 16 years of experience with our organization and 6 years of private practice prior to joining us at the FOP/OLC. Doug has won numerous arbitration and court cases. Doug is also a veteran who served our country prior to attending law school.

Belonging to a Statewide Union is not the same as hiring a local lawyer.

- The FOP/OLC represents more law enforcement personnel in Ohio than any other organization.
- Full time, in-house legal staff is available to handle workplace issues.
- We have 3 offices to better serve our members – Columbus, Cincinnati and Akron.
- Members have access to attorneys 24/7 through the toll- free number 1-800-367-6524.
- All members are eligible to be elected to a seat on the board and/or standing committees which provide member oversight to the operations of the union.
- Most importantly, members are covered – at no additional cost-for administrative, civil and criminal incidents that arise from your employment. The value of criminal defense cannot be overstated. The most glaring example is the Ray Tensing case at the University of Cincinnati. Ray was charged with Murder – twice. The FOP/OLC had his back and paid all costs of his defense.

The Bargaining Committee for State Unit 2 has worked diligently for months on the current negotiations. They have tirelessly done a thankless job which takes up much of their personal time. With Doug Behringer as their Chief Spokesperson, they are making progress toward achieving a new agreement on behalf of the members who elected them.

Signing the petition sent out by Mr. Kruse would put current negotiations on hold and could jeopardize your pay increases for this coming year.

I encourage you to stay the course with the FOP Ohio Labor Council. Allow this committee to finish their job. If any of you have an issue with the FOP/OLC, the proper course is to talk to your committee member who will work with us to address your issue.

Catherine A. Brockman

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Executive Director