



Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Affiliated with: AFL-CIO
International Association of Fire Fighters
Washington State Labor Council

April 17, 2020

Ms. Tracie Sharp
President and CEO
State Policy Network
1655 Fort Myer Drive
Arlington, VA 22209

Via Email: tracie@spn.org

Dear Ms. Sharp:

I am the president of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, and we represent more than 9,000 professional fire fighters statewide. At a time when our country has come together to fight COVID-19, all workers should be respected, especially those on the front lines battling the pandemic.

We recently discovered the State Policy Network has engaged in a campaign to harass fire fighters at their homes during the Coronavirus pandemic. Our brothers and sisters in the union have reported stories of harassing phone calls from the so-called "Freedom" Foundation.

I am calling on you to stop all actions targeting fire fighters and first responders immediately.

Fire fighters across the country put themselves at risk every day, and now, it is particularly dangerous. COVID-19 is a global pandemic that has already claimed the lives of more than 30,000 Americans, including many first responders. When our members are called to action to save lives, they do not hesitate to act. A fire fighter cannot stay six feet away or test the person whose life is in danger--they save that person.

As you know, the "Freedom" Foundation has spent more than \$20 million to advocate against higher pay for workers, pension benefits, health care, and the ability of fire fighters to have a voice on the job. Therefore, any elected official who associates with the "Freedom" Foundation or the State Policy Network will receive a copy of this letter.

During these uncertain times, our members know their union has their back and will fight for their rights and safety on the job. Fire fighters know that we are stronger when we stick together and that your divisive propaganda is harmful. Right now, we need unity, not hate and division.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Lawson
President

cc: Peter Starzynski, NW Accountability Project (via Email)
Tom McCabe and Maxford Nelsen, Freedom Foundation (via Email)
Press

opeiu8/aflcio/dag

