

**MINNESOTA CONGRESSWOMAN  
MICHELLE BACHMAN:**

“Now take, by comparison, a government enterprise, the Post Office, which yearns to remain committed to paying higher labor costs that unfortunately bear no comparison to wages that are currently being paid in the private sector... They have failed to keep up with innovative ways of delivering and cutting down on their labor costs in order to deliver the mail to consumers and so now are billions of dollars in the red and looking once again to the taxpayer for money to bail them out.”

**FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER NEWT  
GINGRICH:**

“It is tragic what we do in the poorest neighborhoods, entrapping children in child laws which are truly stupid,” Gingrich said. “Saying to people you shouldn’t go to work before you’re 14, 16. You’re totally poor, you’re in a school that’s failing with a teacher that’s failing.” Later adding that he “tried for years to have a very simple model. These schools should get rid of unionized janitors, have one master janitor, pay local students to take care of the school. The kids would actually do work; they’d have cash; they’d have pride in the schools. They’d begin the process of rising.”

**TEXAS GOVERNOR RICK PERRY:**

“I just finished tweeting Governor Scott Walker, telling him that a lot of folks across the country are standing with him because they are really pleased to see a principled individual who stands up and says what he believes in... at the end of the day, I bet you the folks of Wisconsin punish those Senators (the

Wisconsin Fourteen) rather than heralding them as heroes.” And during a recent debate, “here’s what I would do with TSA. I would privatize as soon as I could and get rid of those unions.”

The overall message, tenor, and tone from the entire Republican Presidential field are clear. They say that unions are bad, that public sector unions are even worse, and that union workers are overpaid. They walk in lock-step agreement that labor laws must be changed to reduce the “power” of unions, to restrict their ability to organize, and to reduce the premium paid to union workers. Their anti-union, anti-worker messages serve as yet another dog-whistle call to rally the ultra conservative base of their party. I understand why their message would resonate with the financial elite. I am at a loss, however, as to why or how working class Americans could buy into this rhetoric. That’s because I know that organized labor remains the last level of protection for the rights of American workers.

As we enter 2012, and the run-up to the November Presidential and Congressional elections, I encourage all Mail Handlers to remain actively engaged in our political process. Our informed voices can truly make a difference in our workplace, in our communities, and at our polling places. Solidarity forever.



Mark A. Gardner  
National Secretary-Treasurer

“It appears that the GOP has initiated an anti-union litmus test for its Presidential contenders. ... Their anti-union, anti-worker messages serve as yet another dog-whistle call to rally the ultra conservative base of their party.”