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AN EMPIRE OF IDEAS: O'DONNELL RELEASES LABOR POLICY TO PROTECT NEW YORK'S WORKING FAMILIES, EARNS ENDORSEMENT OF BUFFALO BUILDING TRADES

Buffalo, New York- Today Attorney General candidate Denise O'Donnell released her labor policy on building trades and earned the endorsement of the Buffalo Building Trades. The Buffalo Building Trades represents 17 labor unions, covering over 26 counties in the Western New York area. O'Donnell's long career as a prosecutor intersected with labor issues many times, including ending mob control of Buffalo Local Labor Union 210 and successfully prosecuting contractors who were violating worker safety standards. As New York's next Attorney General, her plan for protecting New York's working families includes fighting the rampant misclassification of employees that hurts employees and pilfers the state's tax base and creating a Labor Advisory Council within the Attorney General's Labor Bureau to bridge the disconnect between unions and the office designed to protect them.

O'Donnell, who grew up in a working class family, was thrilled to receive the endorsement and offered these words, "I know how hard union members work for an honest days wages, and that is why, as your next Attorney General, protecting workers rights, wages and safety will be a priority. The endorsement of the Buffalo Building Trades is a wonderful vote of confidence from the workers of Western New York."

"The council is happy to endorse Denise O'Donnell. Her track record is impeccable and we are pleased that the most qualified candidate in the attorney general race also happens to be from Buffalo," said Brad Rybczynski, Executive Director of the Buffalo Building & Construction Trades Council.

O'Donnell continued, "My policy is really about safeguarding workers: their wages, their safety on the job, and protecting them from unscrupulous contractors and sub-contractors who have been so adept at finding loopholes to avoid legal accountability. I will fight to close those loopholes, I will demand prevailing wages are paid on government contracts, and as they know here in Buffalo, I will not be afraid to stand up to crooked leaders who rip off their workers and the government."

THE O'DONNELL PLAN TO PROTECT TRADE LABOR INCLUDES

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF NEW YORK'S WORKERS

Denise believes that on projects paid for by the government, workers deserve to be paid prevailing wage for their hard work.

ADVOCATING FOR NEEDED CHANGES IN NEW YORK'S LABOR LAWS

Denise will join unions in advocating for amendments to Section 220 of the Labor Law to close loopholes and increase the abilities of District Attorneys and the Attorney General to go enforce prevailing wage law.

FIGHTING MISCLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES

Existing loopholes in the Labor Laws enable employees to misclassify wage and salaried employees as independent contractors to avoid paying unemployment insurance and workers compensation benefits for employees. Denise will request a wide spread audit of contractors statewide to address the problem of missing tax revenue and undue burden on employees.

PUTTING TEETH IN ENFORCEMENT

Denise will create a **Labor Law Enforcement Unit** within the Attorney General's Office, staffed by an experienced criminal prosecutor and full time labor law investigator to work with unions and the Department of Labor in enforcing New York's labor laws.

LISTENING TO THE CONCERNS OF NEW YORK'S WORKERS

Denise will create a **Labor Advisory Council** to provide a vehicle for labor leaders to meet with the AG's Labor Bureau on a regular basis.

The only candidate with prosecutorial experience in the race to be New York's next Attorney General, Denise O'Donnell has committed her career to service and protecting New Yorker's. Born and raised in a working class family in Buffalo, she was the first in her family to go to college, eventually earning a Masters of Social Work and later a law degree from the University of Buffalo Law School, where she graduated summa cum laude. A prosecutor for over 17 years, O'Donnell has fought to put crooked labor leaders behind bars, protect New York's children from sexual predators, and worked on some of the most well known recent cases in Western New York, including the investigation of Oklahoma City Bomber, Timothy McVeigh. Visit www.odonnell2006.com to read more about Denise's career as a prosecutor and her future plans to be New York's next Attorney General.

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