



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

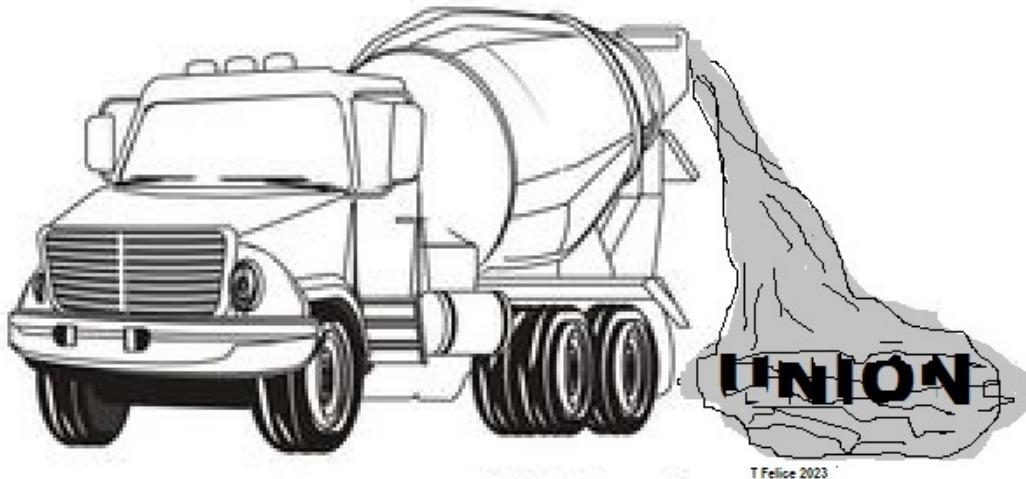
Strength in Numbers 95,000

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

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ANOTHER REASON WHY ELECTIONS MATTER

Failure to elect labor-friendly candidates results in the union's slow demise because anti-union candidates appoint judges not always sympathetic to labor's issues



Supreme Court rules against Teamsters Local Union No. 174 by making it easier for employers to sue over strikes that cause property destruction

The U.S. Supreme Court dealt another setback to organized labor by making it easier for employers to sue over strikes that cause property destruction in a ruling siding with a concrete business in Washington state that sued the union representing its truck drivers after a strike.

The decision overturned a lower court's ruling that the lawsuit filed by Glacier Northwest Inc, which sells and delivers ready-mix concrete, against a Teamsters Local 174 was preempted by a U.S. law called the National Labor Relations Act.

Glacier Northwest filed a lawsuit in Washington state court accusing the union of intentional property destruction during a 2017 strike.

A group of drivers went on strike while their mixing trucks were filled with concrete. Although the drivers kept their mixing drums rotating to delay the concrete from hardening and damaging the vehicles, the company was forced to discard the unused product at a financial loss.

The Washington state Supreme Court in 2021 ruled that the company's claims were preempted by the National Labor Relations Act, saying the company's loss of concrete was incidental to a strike that could be considered arguably protected under federal labor law.

Glacier Northwest had urged the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that federal preemption does not bar claims made under state law involving intentional destruction of an employer's property.

The union, Teamsters Local Union No. 174, had claimed the strike not only was arguably protected under federal labor law but the resulting loss of concrete did not satisfy the high bar to override federal preemption. While the U.S. Supreme Court has found that labor unions can be sued in state court for violent or threatening conduct, the union had argued, this narrow exception should not be expanded to permit property damage claims brought under state law.

The Supreme Court, with its 6-3 conservative majority, has leaned toward curbing the power of labor unions in rulings in recent years.

The US Supreme Court in 2021 struck down a California agricultural regulation aimed at helping unions organize workers. The court in 2018 ruled that non-members cannot be forced, as they are in certain states, to pay fees to unions representing public employees such as police and teachers that negotiate collective bargaining agreements with employers.