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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

June 30, 2014

Mr. Mark Gaston Pearce
Chairman, National Labor Relations Board
1099 14th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20570

Dear Chairman Pearce,

I write in opposition to the proposed merger of the Buffalo and Pittsburgh National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) regional offices. Any proposal to downgrade the Buffalo Regional Office to sub-regional status is concerning for Upstate New York's workforce and business community as well as the rights of workers around New York State. If, however, the NLRB is to go through with a merger of the Buffalo and Pittsburgh offices, Buffalo is the clear choice to maintain Regional Office status.

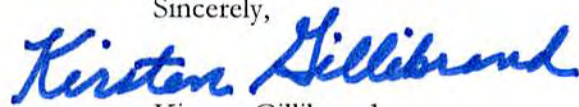
The National Labor Relations Board was formed in 1935 as an independent agency of the federal government charged with conducting elections for labor union representation and investigating unfair labor practices. The Buffalo Regional Office of the NLRB has a reputation for living up to this mission and safeguarding employees' rights.

The proposed consolidation would have a detrimental effect on the agency's ability to protect the rights of workers seeking to organize throughout the 51 New York counties the Buffalo office serves. The consolidation could lead to delays in ongoing and new investigations, as well as enforcement issues around New York State. Workers deserve to get the most out of their tax dollars and the proposed merger would limit the easy and readily-available access workers currently have to an NLRB regional director, who plays an important role in the oversight and intervention on the behalf of their labor rights and protections.

If a consolidation is necessary, the logical choice for a Region 3 and 6 merger would be for Buffalo to maintain Regional Office status. The Buffalo area's private sector workforce union representation is proportionately double that of Pittsburgh's, which equates to a greater proportion of the workforce dependent on their regional office. In addition, Buffalo is located 375 miles away from Plattsburgh, New York in the corner of Region 3, and about 400 miles from Charleston, West Virginia in the corner of Region 6. The drive from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Plattsburgh, New York is almost 600 miles, making the trip extremely taxing for Upstate New York's workforce to travel to a regional office to have face-to-face interaction with the NLRB's regional director. Buffalo would serve as a central location in a merged Region 3 and 6, and therefore should not have its status be changed to sub-regional.

I ask that you please give this request your full consideration and keep my office informed of any recommendations made to the Board. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Jon Cardinal at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator