

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2/10/2010

MARCONI STANDS WITH STATE POLICE OFFERS IN STRUGGLE TO JOIN UNION

RIDGEFIELD 2/10—In advance of tomorrow's state Supreme Court hearing regarding the right of State Police captains and lieutenants to join the union, Rudy Marconi, exploratory candidate for governor, has issued the following statement.

"I stand strongly with our State Police captains and lieutenants in their unanimous effort to join the union. The Labor Board ruled they may do so, a decision upheld by the Superior Court. Now the matter is before the state Supreme Court.

"The legal issue at hand is whether the captains and lieutenants fit a statutory description of 'managerial employees. and are therefore excluded from collective bargaining.

"But the larger issue—the real problem—is our governor's historic refusal to accept that state workers deserve a voice.

"As first selectman, I have been working and negotiating with unions for over a decade. And while the negotiating process may sometimes put us at odds, I have never questioned their right to collective bargaining. That includes Ridgefield's police captains and lieutenants, who are in fact union members.

"It's time for Governor Rell to stop squandering state resources on her mission to suppress these officers' rights as state employees."

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Dave Goldenberg
Communications Director

Marconi for Connecticut
www.rudymarconi.com
203-244-9880
P.O. Box 966
Ridgefield, CT 06877