



# ***A friend and ally of labor for almost 35 years, Bob Ficano has stood with workers in their struggles and advocated for union jobs.***

**Protecting unions' right to picket and strike:** Early in his career as Wayne County Sheriff, Bob Ficano was confronted with a strike at Standard Tube. The Local Police Chief escorted scabs through the picket line. Sheriff Ficano refused a request to confront the picket line citing public safety. Ficano called the owner and guaranteed his safe passage to begin union negotiations, and within minutes, a meeting was set up down the street and negotiations began, which settled the strike. At a Guardian Glass strike, on the border between Wayne and Monroe Counties, Ficano stopped the abuse of picketers on the Wayne County side, and picketers were allowed to assemble with dignity and respect.

**Organizing Hudson Workers:** Bob Ficano walked with President (then Region 1A Director) Bob King to organize Hudson workers. Bob Ficano was one of the few public officials willing to walk with union members through the store.

**Cobo Hall Expansion:** Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano was the initial driving force to expand Cobo Center when the auto show was in jeopardy of leaving Detroit. He led the effort for legislation that created an Authority and provided a revenue stream. This resulted in hundreds of union construction jobs and saved thousands of union jobs in hotels, restaurants and entertainment.

**Saving the Auto Industry:** When the auto industry was under assault by members of Congress and faced bankruptcy in 2009, Bob Ficano used thousands of his own campaign dollars, as well as raised private dollars to run ads in states of Republican Senators who were criticizing government loans to the industry. The ads emphasized the good things unionized auto jobs have meant for the middle class Americans. When GM and Chrysler began paying back the loans, Ficano cut his satisfying "I Told You So" ad:

*"This is County Executive Robert Ficano of Wayne County, Michigan, home of the American automotive industry and the American middle class. Through struggle, pain and creativity, the Big 3 have again emerged as global leaders...labor's proven to be flexible and highly efficient. UAW members are being called back by the thousands to meet product demand. The American auto industry rebirth has been about sacrifice and determination. Thank you to those who supported the loan package and a big I TOLD YOU SO to those that didn't."*

**Supported Proposal 2:** Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano supported the proposal which would have amended the Michigan constitution to guarantee public and private-sector employees the right to organize and bargain collectively.

**Opposition to Right To Work:** On his way to Lansing to take part in a rally against Right To Work Legislation, Wayne County Executive Ficano told the demonstrators on the bus "I am adamantly opposed to this. I think it's a disaster for the state. It is shortsighted and vindictive. The state is going to be in a civil war for the next year."

Recently, when Republican politicians were threatening and intimidating workers at VW in Chattanooga and South Carolina Rep. Governor Nikki Halley said she didn't want American auto plants with American unions in her state, Bob Ficano pushed back with letters and editorials.

