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LaFonta Receives Laborers' Endorsement

Endorsement of Laborers' Adds to LaFonta Momentum

Juan LaFonta, a state representative and Democratic Candidate for Congress in Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, has received the endorsement of Robert Pernell, Southeast Laborers' District Council and Barry Kaufman Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 689 New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Fighting for working people is second nature for me," LaFonta said. "The endorsement of the Laborers' Unions is especially meaningful to me as the son of a bricklayer. My father has laid brick all over New Orleans and the members of the Laborers' are like family to me. This is a major boost for my campaign and an acknowledgement that during my service in the legislature I have been a faithful supporter of issues of importance to working families."

Barry Kaufman, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for Local 689, said, "Juan LaFonta is no stranger to our members. We have watched as Juan LaFonta has grown and evolved into a strong fighter for working people in New Orleans. We will support Juan's campaign financially and our members are prepared to take to the streets to support his campaign door to door."

The son of a bricklayer and a public school teacher, Juan LaFonta is no stranger to hard work. Since he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2005, LaFonta has been an effective and dedicated representative for the people of New Orleans. A lifelong resident of Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, Juan has always believed in the values of faith, family and community. He still lives on the same street where he grew up, taking every opportunity to maintain his connections to the people he represents. His single minded focus on the needs of his neighbors is reflected in his life and in his work in the legislature.

Juan is committed to economic development in his community, working to ease the tax burden on local businesses to create jobs. He is a believer in accessible healthcare, championing the effort to rebuild Charity Hospital and pushing legislation to expand healthcare coverage and strong regulation of insurance companies. He serves on the House Commerce, Insurance and Retirement Committees, and on the House Special Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long-Term Revitalization, formed after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area.

The second child of George LaFonta, a bricklayer, and Joanne Bagneris LaFonta, a public school teacher, Juan worked his way through college. His father has laid brick all over New Orleans and his mother has touched the lives of literally thousands of students in her long and distinguished career.

In 2005, Juan was elected to represent the people of House District 96 - including the Bywater, Treme, Gentilly, the French Quarter and Faubourg Marigny - in a special election. He was re-elected in 2007 without opposition, and was the first freshman legislator ever elected Chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, a position he held until July 2008.

The reality and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have defined both Juan LaFonta and the congressional district he is running to represent. Juan LaFonta was personally involved in pulling family, friends and neighbors from the flood waters. In the legislature, LaFonta has been steadfast in his work on hurricane protection and recovery.

LaFonta earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Orleans before acquiring his law degree from Southern University. Juan is a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and serves as an adjunct professor at Dillard University and as a mentor in the Tom Watson Memorial Teaching Ministry.

As a Member of Congress, Juan LaFonta will continue his work for his beloved New Orleans by focusing on economic development, job creation and hurricane recovery and protection. LaFonta will also be a strong advocate for universal health care and a stalwart protector of Social Security and Medicare.