

Forging Industry Association

The Laurin Baker Group, LLC

Consultants in Government Relations and Public Affairs
900 2nd Street, NE Suite 201 Washington, DC 20002

Action Alert to Washington

TELL CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE SO-CALLED “EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT”

BACKGROUND

Big Labor is pushing Congress to take away the right of employees to a secret ballot when deciding whether or not to join a union. The so-called “Employee Free Choice Act” would replace federally supervised private ballots with a scheme called “card check”, which would require a company to recognize a union if a majority of workers simply sign a card.

Under this system, paid union organizers would oversee the process, not the federal government, and employee choices would be made public to everyone involved—the company, the union organizers, and fellow employees.

The legislation would also force binding arbitration on both the employer and the employees if no contract is reached within 90 days of notification of the union’s representation, thus removing employees’ right to vote on the terms of their own contract!

This legislation passed the House of Representatives in 2007 but did not get a vote in the Senate, so it did not become law. Now Big Labor is demanding that it be reintroduced in the 111th Congress, and is vowing to pull out all the stops to get it to President Obama’s desk, where they expect him to fulfill a campaign promise to sign it into law.

STATUS AND REQUESTED ACTION

Big Labor and their friends in Congress are actively seeking support for this idea in the 111th Congress, with the expectation of introducing legislation soon in the House of Representatives. **Without continued strong business opposition, this anti-growth legislation could see quick passage in the House. And due to the changes in the Senate during the 2008 elections, there is no guarantee it will not pass the Senate this year.**

But business opposition is strong and growing, and some Members of Congress are expressing reservations about this controversial proposal. **Now is the time to tell Members of Congress to vote “NO” on this blatant power grab by Big Labor.**

Please call, send an email or fax a letter ASAP to your U.S. Representatives and Senators and urge them to OPPOSE any legislation introduced in the 111th Congress that would remove a worker’s right to a secret ballot in determining whether to join a union or force binding arbitration on both parties unnecessarily.

A sample message is attached for your use. Please personalize with information about your company, including the number of employees in the state or District, products you make and industries you serve if appropriate. Also, please provide a blind copy of your email or fax, as well as any responses, to Laurin Baker or Jennifer Reid in Washington, so they can follow up as appropriate with Members of Congress. Laurin’s email is lbaker@thelaurinbakergroup.com; Jennifer’s is jreid@thelaurinbakergroup.com; and their fax is 202-842-0439.

Telephone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses of Members of Congress are available at www.congress.org. Enter the ZIP +4 of your location to find information about your Senators and your Representative.

Charlie Hageman

Executive Vice President
Forging Industry Association
216-781-6260
Charlie@forging.org