

Minnesota Business Leaders

A coalition powered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce along with chambers, associations, and businesses to save the secret ballot.



Update: Week of October 19

HOLD THE DATE



MBL Coalition Members are taking action TODAY to stop this misnamed and misguided legislation

The coalition of business organizations is your go to source for EFCA information and updates. Thanks to all

While it still isn't known when EFCA will show up on the calendar in the Senate, the new leadership of the AFL-CIO continues to flex its muscles. New AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka is anxious to cash in on the investment labor made in Democratic candidates during the 2008 elections. Since the AFL-CIO election in mid-September, Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, have been actively speaking around the country about their efforts to energize and invigorate the labor movement. Articles in this week's edition of *Minnesota Business Leaders* focus on the efforts by labor's newly elected leaders to shore up support for their movement, recruit new members and seek passage of EFCA. Also included in this week's edition is a profile of Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), who is now over a month into his chairmanship of the Senate HELP

of our members for joining the fight to save the secret ballot!

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber
 Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber
 Apple Valley Chamber
 Austin Area Chamber
 Brainerd Lakes Chamber
 Burnsville Chamber
 Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead
 Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks
 Dakota County Regional Chamber
 Duluth Area Chamber
 Eden Prairie Chamber
 Edina Chamber
 Elk River Area Chamber
 Fairmont Area Chamber
 Faribault Area Chamber
 Greater Wayzata Area Chamber
 Grand Rapids Area Chamber
 Hastings Area Chamber
 Hutchinson Area Chamber
 I-94 West Chamber
 International Falls Area Chamber
 Lakeville Area Chamber
 Litchfield Chamber
 Marshall Area Chamber
 MetroNorth Chamber
 Midway Chamber
 Minneapolis Regional Chamber
 Minnesota Chamber
 MN Associated Builders & Contractors
 MN Automobile Dealers Association
 MN Beverage Association
 MN Business Partnership
 MN Grocers Association
 MN Lodging Association
 MN Restaurant Association
 MN Trucking Association
 MN Warehouse Association
 North Hennepin Area Chamber
 Northfield Area Chamber
 Owatonna Area Chamber
 Printing Industry of MN
 Redwood Area Chamber
 Richfield Chamber
 River Heights Chamber

Committee. First off is a special message from Tom Donohue, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, who outlines recent challenges the business community faces in Washington, D.C. and around the country.

Message from Tom Donohue

Dear Friends,

You may have seen media reports about several companies that say they are leaving the Chamber because they disagree with our position on climate change. This is an outgrowth of an orchestrated campaign by some activist environmental groups to pressure companies and the Chamber into supporting specific approaches to climate change that we believe just wouldn't work-- such as the House-passed Waxman-Markey bill or EPA's go-it-alone effort to impose costly new greenhouse gas regulations across our society without legislation.

The Chamber's critics want Americans to think that our opposition to these specific approaches--opposition which is shared by a growing number of Americans and legislators from both parties--means that we don't want to address climate change at all. In fact, the Chamber supports strong policies to address climate change, including comprehensive federal legislation.

We believe that in order to succeed, any climate change response must promote new technologies, emphasize efficiency, ensure affordable energy for families and businesses, and help create American jobs and return our economy to prosperity. Congress should carefully deliberate on and enact legislation that meets these goals.

Rochester Area Chamber
 Saint Paul Area Chamber
 Saint Peter Area Chamber
 SouthWest Metro Chamber
 St. Cloud Area Chamber
 Thief River Falls Chamber
 TwinWest Chamber
 U.S. Chamber
 Waconia Chamber of Commerce
 Wahpeton Breckenridge Area Chamber
 White Bear Area Chamber
 Willmar Lakes Area Chamber
 Winona Area Chamber
 Worthington Area Chamber

Take Action Now!

Talk of action on EFCA commands that we continue to educate and let our individual voice be heard!
To contact your elected officials:

1. Go to

www.mnbusinessleaders.com.

2. Click on "Take Action Now!"

3. Send a message urging them to reconsider their stance on EFCA.

4. Pass the link on to your friends and colleagues.

MBL Resource Website

Visit the coalition's new website TODAY!

www.mnbusinessleaders.com

is your information source for all things card check. The site has all of the EFCA resources and information you and your members will need. Powered by the U.S. Chamber, you will find links to the Chamber's card check Toolkit, EFCA facts and figures, and all of the latest news on the legislation.

In addition, we support a comprehensive international agreement to reduce carbon emissions. A global response is absolutely essential if there is to be any meaningful impact on the environment, and to ensure that climate change policies do not put U.S. businesses at a competitive disadvantage or result in the elimination of additional American jobs.

To underscore the seriousness of our commitment to help shape an international agreement, last month the Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy organized and hosted an unprecedented summit of the leading business organizations from six continents, representing more than 25 million businesses. We hammered out a strong statement supporting vigorous action to address climate change while promoting jobs, economic growth, and clean energy technologies with robust intellectual property protections.

For years, the Chamber has been a vocal and leading supporter of renewable fuels and alternative energy technologies. We have repeatedly supported tax incentives and credits, appropriations, and stimulus funding to promote the accelerated development of clean energy and especially emissions-free nuclear energy. Unlike those who proclaim their support for alternative energy but then work locally to block green projects, the Chamber has been leading the fight to clear the regulatory, legal and Not-In-My-Backyard roadblocks that are currently delaying wind, solar, nuclear, and other renewable projects across the nation. You can access the record of these activities [here](#).

Last week, Senators Barbara Boxer and John

filed a petition for the EPA to hold an on-the-record hearing before finalizing its proposed "endangerment" finding, which would enable it to fully regulate CO2 under the Clean Air Act. We did not do it to challenge the science or existence of climate change. We did it because on a matter of this importance, we believe that this country's regulators should be open, clear, and transparent about the data and assumptions they are using to measure the impact of a risk. We did it also because potential future legal challenges to EPA regulations could depend on going on the record and raising procedural concerns now.

It is important to note that that in its own proposed endangerment finding, EPA states that "there are many inherent uncertainties associated with characterizing both the observed and projected risks and impacts to public health and welfare due to current and projected greenhouse gas concentrations." Is it unreasonable to think that these uncertainties should be resolved before moving ahead with the sweeping program of regulation the Clean Air Act would compel?

For nearly a year, I have been warning chambers, associations, and the business community that there would be concerted efforts to divide and pressure companies and associations into supporting or at least not opposing the cherished agenda of unions, environmentalists, shareholder activists, and others. These groups have been waiting a lifetime to enact their agenda and some will even resort to personal attacks against those who they see standing in their way.

We understand the pressure that high profile companies are under. Some companies may

have calculated that they can profit or gain an advantage over competitors through climate change legislation and regulation, again perfectly understandable in the world of business. *The Wall Street Journal's* Kimberly Strassel articulates this dynamic well in her October 2 opinion piece, which you can read [here](#). Ms. Strassel also penned an October 23 opinion piece titled "The Chicago Way" (found [here](#)) that succinctly describes the "Chicago-style" politics taking shape in Washington D.C.

Still, this is a time for businesses and those who represent them to be strong. The Chamber is in a very solid financial position, and the current attacks on us will not weaken us. In fact, additional supporters are rallying to our cause. We are always prepared to listen to new arguments and respond to the changing priorities and concerns of our members. We will continue to be actively and constructively engaged in the legislative and regulatory process, working for genuine solutions that improve the environment while preserving jobs and the American economy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Chamber Senior Vice President Bill Miller at 202-463-5638 or call me.

Sincerely,
Tom Donohue
President and CEO

Harkin settling in to new role as chair of HELP committee

In a *Roll Call* article reviewing Sen. Tom Harkin's (D-IA) new role as chair of the Senate HELP Committee, Sen. Harkin notes, "we're very close to having an agreement,"

when asked about EFCA. While unsuccessful in pushing the legislation to a vote just yet, Harkin does mention his ongoing work with moderate Democrats to forge an agreement. The article can be found [here](#).

AFL-CIO's new secretary-treasurer optimistic on EFCA

During a recent trip to Minnesota, new national AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Liz Shuler shared her thoughts that passage of EFCA is "incredibly close." Shuler shared her thoughts on EFCA, health care reform and other issues important to labor while speaking at a political conference for Minnesota's AFL-CIO. The full article published by *Workday Minnesota* can be found [here](#).

What Trumka might mean as the new leader for the labor movement in America

In the month since he was elected president of the AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka has sought to stake out what labor means to the future success of the American economy. In the article "[Labor's New Leader: The AFL-CIO stakes its future on Richard Trumka](#)" published October 16, 2009 by the left-leaning *In These Times*, the writer outlines the goals, and challenges, of organized labor. Central to the article is Trumka's fight to pass EFCA and push to recruit younger members to join unions. The article also discusses efforts to build and strengthen coalitions, differing views on the approach to union organizing and changes in the working class. Of note to the business community is Trumka's plan "...to make labor's well-honed electoral machine run full-time to push for

legislation and hold Democratic politicians accountable." This should serve as one more reason for business leaders in Minnesota stay alert and actively involved in legislation that may affect the very way they do business.

The changing composition of the union ranks?

From *Human Resource Executive Online* comes an article about the changes that Richard Trumka may shape in organizing young workers. According to experts in the article, Trumka will change the relationship between the AFL-CIO and management, bringing with him a great deal of knowledge about the structure of corporate finance and pension law. In the face of declining membership, Trumka's efforts to bring new members to the fold will depend largely on the success of passing EFCA and more aggressive efforts to organize, including regular visits to college campuses and mobilizing "strike forces" of young organizers. The full article can be found [here](#).

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