
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 April 13

Coalition Now Has 50 Members!

Since our last update, the Marshall Area Chamber and the Thief River Falls Chamber joined MBL - bringing the total number of members to 50! If you're still thinking of joining the coalition, contact us today.

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

EFCA Proponents Are Not Deterred

"The fact is the Employee Free Choice Act has more support than ever -- large majorities in both houses of Congress, the President and Vice President, 73 percent of the public. We will continue to work with Democrats and a number of Republicans to create commonsense solutions to the decades of corporate power. We do not plan to let a hardball campaign from Big Business derail the Employee Free Choice Act or the dreams of workers."

John Sweeney
March 24, 2009

Statement after Senator Specter's Announcement to Oppose EFCA and Cloture

"Anyone (who) thinks they're burying card check because of Specter's statement in an effort to avoid a primary in Pennsylvania should not think this legislation is going to go away."

Chamber Grand Forks/East
 Grand Forks
 Dakota County Regional
 Chamber
 Duluth Area Chamber
 Eden Prairie Chamber
 Edina Chamber
 Elk River Area Chamber
 Faribault Area Chamber
 Greater Wayzata Area Chamber
 Hastings Area Chamber
 I-94 West Chamber
 International Falls Area
 Chamber
 Lakeville Area Chamber
 Litchfield Chamber
 Marshall Area Chamber
 Minneapolis Regional Chamber
 Minnesota Chamber
 MN Automobile Dealers
 Association
 MN Beverage Association
 MN Grocers Association
 MN Trucking Association
 MN Associated Builders &
 Contractors
 MN Business Partnership
 MN Lodging Association
 MN Restaurant Association
 North Hennepin Area Chamber
 Northfield Area Chamber
 Owatonna Area Chamber
 Printing Industry of MN
 Richfield Chamber
 River Heights Chamber
 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

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
 March 24, 2009

From the U.S. Chamber...

We thought you might like to view a recent report by National Journal that includes an interview with Doug Pinkham of the Public Affairs Council that discusses the use of web video as an advocacy tool in the current EFCA debate. The video specifically cites the video from the Chamber from our online anti-Card Check campaign including ads and videos. You can view the video interview here:

http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/ns_20090321_9177.php

To see other U.S. Chamber sponsored ads on EFCA, check out:

<http://www.uschamber.com/ads/default>

Finally, click [here](#) to view information on additional U.S. Chamber resources on EFCA.

Register Today: MN Business Leaders Head to DC to Defeat EFCA

Rebuilding Our Economy Together
America's Small Business Summit 2009
May 11-13, 2009
Washington, DC

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executive's (MCCE) Washington DC fly-in, held in conjunction with the U.S. Chamber's Small Business Summit, will be a remarkably important event in the EFCA battle. During the Summit's opening session, U.S. Chamber Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel Steven Law will provide an update on the status of the card check legislation. Find out how this bill could impact your business and your community and what you can do about it now. Meetings will be set up with each of the members of the MN Congressional Delegation to discuss EFCA and other important issues pending before Congress. This is a great opportunity to show your opposition to EFCA so don't miss out!

Winona Area Chamber

Upcoming Events

Senator Amy Klobuchar will be participating in the University of Minnesota's Repower Minnesota Town Hall on April 17. The Town Hall will focus on the economic stimulus, job creation and repowering America through renewable energy investments. Senator Klobuchar will highlight Washington's response to the economic downturn and the opportunities that still lie ahead for repowering and regrowing the economy. The Town Hall will include information sharing, audience Q and A, and a panelists' discussion. The event takes place from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Carlson School of Management (Honeywell Auditorium). Seating is extremely limited, but we hope coalition members will be able to attend - visit the registration website [here](#).

EFCA Ads

Here are two ads on Card Check - one from the U.S. Chamber and the other from the Winona Area Chamber.

[U.S. Chamber Ad](#)

[Winona Area Chamber Ad](#)

Looking for an EFCA Websticker?

We've had a number of requests for website links on Card Check. We think this link is best

The cost for this event is \$450 per person. **Be sure to register through MCCE**, as you'll save up to nearly \$300 per person by doing so. Click [here](#) for a registration form. Flights to DC for the Summit are very competitive currently, so don't delay making plans! (Right now a nonstop flight with NWA is running about \$250.)

Outreach Updates

More chambers from across the state have been busy getting the word out on Card Check - thanks for all of your work!

Click [here](#) to read an op-ed submitted by **The Chamber Grand Forks & East Grand Forks**. It ran April 4 in the *Grand Forks Herald*.

The **Thief River Falls Chamber** sent this [letter](#) to their local newspaper, as well as Senator Klobuchar and Representative Collin Peterson.

Finally, this [letter](#) from the **Waconia Chamber**, submitted by a local business person, appeared in the *Waconia Patriot* back in March regarding EFCA.

From the Wall Street Journal

APRIL 13, 2009

BY [BRODY MULLINS](#)

WASHINGTON -- The fight over a stalled bill that would make it easier for unions to organize workers is entering a new round, with the nation's largest business association and big labor unions gearing up competing efforts to sway a small group of senators.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is launching a \$1 million television advertising campaign that takes a new line of attack against the Employee Free Choice Act, highlighting a provision that would allow federal arbitrators to set the rules for unionization if management and employees fail to negotiate their

as it goes directly to an EFCA Action Alert center for your members to check out within the Vote For Business website. To program the sticker on your homepage, simply have your Webmaster copy and paste the associated code of the image to the HTML portion of your homepage:

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<a
href="http://capwiz.com/chamber
/issues/alert/?alertid=12675391"
target="_blank"><img src=
"http://www.voteforbusiness.net/
resources/voteforbusiness/images/
stickers/efca_2.jpg" border="0"
alt="
Say no to Card Check" /></a>
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EFCA Toolkit

The U.S. Chamber also has an online EFCA [Tool Kit](#) that has sample letters to Congress, Newsletter articles, and other information to assist you with your outreach.

Minnesota Business Leaders: Your Go-To Resource

Click [here](#) for a list of the coalition's contacts.

own deal.

The Chamber TV spots running in the home states of key senators on the issue feature management-level employees saying the legislation would allow "a bureaucrat from Washington" to tell people how to run their businesses.

The new Chamber ads will hit the airwaves in Nebraska, Virginia, Louisiana, North Dakota and Colorado -- states whose senators could be swing votes on the issue.

The business lobby's ads follow a new round of union-backed TV ads designed to build support for the bill. One TV spot, launched Thursday, is called "Greed" and seeks to tap anger over Wall Street bailouts to aid the union cause.

Companies think they "deserve bailouts and bonuses for bringing our economy down, and then turn around and try to keep workers from joining unions to earn better wages and benefits," the narrator says as images of Wall Street flash on the screen.

A second ad that began running last week says the legislation would improve the lives of workers and help the economy. Labor unions have spent \$10 million on ads for the bill since Labor Day. Besides TV ads, unions have hung 50-foot banners on a dozen office buildings in Washington that bear personal testimonials from employees about how unions help workers.

The Employee Free Choice Act currently lacks the 60 votes needed to clear the Senate. Opposition to the proposal until now has focused on a provision that would make it easier for unions to organize without secret-ballot elections. A coalition of pro-business organizations has spent more than \$30 million on TV ads in the past few years portraying the secret-ballot provision as antidemocratic. That

campaign pressured several key senators to reverse their prior support, leaving the bill several senators short of 60 votes.

Now, industry is shifting its focus to a binding-arbitration measure included in the same legislation. Steven Law, who leads the Chamber's lobbying effort on the bill, said the Chamber doesn't want to see a compromise that involves accepting arbitration in exchange for unions dropping the ballot provision. "Mandatory binding arbitration is anathema," he said.

Congressional Democratic leaders, some business executives and unions are discussing possible compromises that would open a path to achieve at least some of labor's goals this year. The CEOs of Costco Wholesale Corp., Starbucks Corp. and Whole Foods Market Inc. have floated a proposal that sidesteps some of the thornier issues but would set a fixed time period in which to hold union elections.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D., Nev.) said in late March that "there's conversations going on now with other Republicans to see what can be done to come up with a piece of legislation that will help working men and women in this country."

The Chamber and some allied groups remain opposed to changing current laws covering union organizing.

Josh Goldstein, a spokesman for the union-backed American Rights at Work, said employers can "delay negotiations while continuing their union-busting tactics, so it's imperative that we create incentives to promote good-faith bargaining and solutions to get to a first contract in a reasonable amount of time."

The conflict between business groups and unions is awkward for President Barack Obama, who has said he supports the Free Choice act, but who also needs

