

# 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 20**

## **The Coalition Continues to Grow...**

This week, the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota Warehouse Association signed on as MBL members. Thank you for joining! Contact us today if your organization is interested in being a part of the coalition.

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber  
Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber  
Apple Valley Chamber  
Austin Area Chamber  
Brainerd Lakes Chamber  
Burnsville Chamber

## **TwinWest Chamber Goes on the Offensive in Recent Column**

The following editorial by Bruce Nustad, president of the **TwinWest Chamber**, appeared last week in the *Minnesota Sun*. Bruce is also the chair of Minnesota Business Leaders.

## **Preserve Workers' Right to Vote in Private**

*Bruce Nustad - guest columnist*

The right to vote in private and without fear is at the very heart of the society we fought to create 233 years ago. This treasured right is being challenged today by the introduction of the misnamed Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), also known as Card Check, in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

The TwinWest Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of its members, opposes Card Check because of the ramifications it would have on workers, jobs and businesses.

Let's be clear: TwinWest does not disapprove of labor unions.

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  
 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  
 MetroNorth 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  
 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

In fact, most business leaders I encounter tell me they respect the federal law that was passed nearly 70 years ago, called the National Labor Relations Act. But they are concerned about taking away the secret ballot currently offered to employees and removing the balance that exists between union organizers and job creators during the union organizing process.

Under current law, the decision to form a union is usually left to the workers through a secret ballot. That means workers can choose, in private, whether they want to join a union. Now organized labor wants to do away with secret ballot elections.

Under the Card Check proposal, union organizers would be free to persuade workers to publicly sign a card stating that they support the union. Union organizers could ask workers to sign a card just about anywhere - in the parking lot after work, at a restaurant, even at home.

Once more than 50 percent sign cards, workers would be unionized - no more debate and no secret ballot election. Because unions would know who has signed a card, workers could be exposed to unfair pressure and not all workers would be given the right to choose their fate.

An equal concern for job creators is that the proposed Card Check bill includes a binding arbitration provision that would potentially let federal government arbitrators dictate wages and benefits under a union contract and then deny workers the chance to vote on that contract.

Frequently, proponents of Card Check ask, "Since when do employers care about workers?" My experience is that most business owners are just like the one that lives across the street from you. Business owners know the success of their business depends on productive, satisfied and dedicated workers. And they know that job growth translates to a stronger economy.

Let's not take our country's constitutional right of a secret ballot out of the workplace. I urge you, no matter where you fall on this issue, to embrace another principle that we hold dear in this country and express your views by contacting

Waconia Chamber of  
Commerce  
Wahpeton Breckenridge Area  
Chamber  
White Bear Area Chamber  
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber  
Winona Area Chamber

### Communicate with Your Members!

Many organizations are using the MBL e-newsletter as a regular communications tool by forwarding it on to their interested members. We encourage you to do the same!

### Additional Resources

[Card Check Newsletter 1](#)  
[Card Check Newsletter 2](#)  
[George McGovern Op-Ed Piece](#)  
[Card Check Article](#)  
[Tom Donohue Op-Ed on](#)  
[Binding Arbitration](#)

### Looking for an EFCA Websticker?

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

```
<a  
href="http://capwiz.com/chamber  
/issues/alert/?alertid=12675391"  
target="_blank"><img src=
```

Senator Amy Klobuchar and Representative Erik Paulsen.

Bruce Nustad is president of TwinWest Chamber of Commerce.

<http://www.mnsun.com/articles/2009/04/16/opinion/fw16twinwestpres.txt>

## From the U.S Chamber: Deadline Extended One Week...

We are asking your assistance in reaching out to your member companies and urge them to sign on to this [letter](#), which will be sent to Congress urging them to vote "No" on this bad-for-business bill.

This letter is for businesses to sign onto (though no actual signatures are required, just an authorization to add the company's name and town/state location), in order to show that this piece of legislation has the potential to affect all businesses of any size and in any industry. Hundreds of small businesses have already agreed to sign and we would like to give your members an opportunity to put their company name on the letter.

To sign on a business member, please email [dnelson@uschamber.com](mailto:dnelson@uschamber.com). **The deadline for sign-ups is this Friday, April 24.**

## America's Leading Newspapers Weigh In

The editorial boards of some of the nation's leading newspapers, such as The Wall Street Journal, the L.A. Times, and The Washington Post, took a look at the Card Check bill. They concluded decisively that the legislation effectively eliminates private ballots. See the link below and read for yourself.

» [Read the editorials](#)

## Last Chance to Register: MN Business Leaders Head to DC to Defeat EFCA

*Rebuilding Our Economy Together*

"[http://www.voteforbusiness.net/resources/voteforbusiness/images/stickers/efca\\_2.jpg](http://www.voteforbusiness.net/resources/voteforbusiness/images/stickers/efca_2.jpg)" border="0" alt="Say no to Card Check" /></a>



### 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.

### 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!

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.) **Register today as the trip is now only a few weeks away!**

You are receiving this email because you recently joined the Minnesota Business Leaders coalition or you are a chamber or business association in Minnesota that may have interest in becoming active on this issue.

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