
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 27

56 Members Strong

Thanks to the **Midway, Grand Rapids, Fairmont and Worthington Chambers of Commerce** for joining the coalition this week! Contact us today if you'd like to sign your organization up as a MBL member.

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

Business Organizations Join the Fight to Protect the Secret Ballot and Binding Arbitration in Union Organizing

The Minnesota Business Leaders coalition of business organizations that are opposed to the misnamed Employee Free Choice Act continues to grow. The coalition welcomes the Midway Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce to the effort.

Legislative Update

Earlier this week, Senator Arlen Specter (PA) announced his plan to switch from the Republican party to the Democratic party causing a tidal wave of speculation on a number of fronts and his decision's impact on key issues before the U.S. Senate.

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
 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
 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

Since his decision earlier to vote against EFCA and oppose cloture was pivotal to the bill's consideration, we were pleased to see his announcement to not change his views on the bill. In making his announcement, he provided this comment on cloture and specifically on EFCA:

"My change in party affiliation does not mean that I will be a party-line voter any more for the Democrats that I have been for the Republicans. Unlike Senator Jeffords' switch which changed party control, I will not be an automatic 60th vote for cloture. For example, my position on Employees Free Choice (Card Check) will not change."

The proponents of the bill continue to press for action. We will continue to closely monitor the situation in Washington and be vigilant to keep the coalition up-to-date on developments.

Card Check in the News

Below are several links to current EFCA articles from across the country. You can also follow the U.S. Chamber's Workforce Freedom Initiative on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/WorkforceFrdm>.

-The Hill- "Bill Samuel, the AFL-CIO's chief lobbyist, said Congress should move on a contentious union bill soon and not hope for a better political climate after the 2010 midterm elections.": <http://tinyurl.com/cgs3a2>

-Billings Gazette- "U.S. Chamber rep says Employee Free Choice Act unnecessary": <http://tinyurl.com/d5njxb>

-Las Vegas Sun- "Specter's defection gives no edge to card check": <http://tinyurl.com/djrjqv>

-WREX-TV- "Chamber speaks out against union-forming legislation": <http://tinyurl.com/ddk2qt>

Last Chance to Register: MN Business

Willmar Lakes Area Chamber
Winona Area Chamber
Worthington 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](#)

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.

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!

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!**

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*, *The Star Tribune*, 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](#)

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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