

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 February 23

MBL Continues to Grow...

The Saint Peter Area Chamber and the Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks are the latest members to join the coalition. This brings the coalition's total member count to 45!

Don't forget, if you are still thinking of joining MBL but need more information to present to your board, click [here](#). This sample resolution was drafted by the Rochester Area Chamber and is a great resource.

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber
Apple Valley Chamber
Brainerd Lakes Chamber
Burnsville Chamber
Chamber of Commerce of Fargo

From the U.S. Chamber - Let's take your concerns to DC!

Rebuilding Our Economy Together

America's Small Business Summit 2009
May 11-13, 2009 | Washington, DC

Protect the Secret Ballot: Unions' Top Issue Will Impede Small Businesses' Ability to Rebuild the Economy

Card Check on the Summit Agenda

During the Summit's opening session, U.S. Chamber Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel Steven Law will provide an update on the status of card check legislation. Find out how this bill could impact your business and your community and what you can do about it now. Preventing this legislation's passage will leave businesses with a greater opportunity to create more jobs and generate more growth within our economy.

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
 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
 TwinWest Chamber
 U.S. Chamber
 Wahpeton Breckenridge Area Chamber
 White Bear Area Chamber
 Willmar Lakes Area Chamber
 Winona Area Chamber

Communicate with Your Members!

We would like to provide you with a sample [newsletter article](#) as well as a sample [email](#) that you can customize

Join the U.S. Chamber's delegation to the Rally on the Hill and tell your Representative how card check would impact your business. Their Congressional Affairs staff can help you schedule your meeting. When you register, just let them know if you need help on the registration form. Click [here](#) for the MCCE registration form. Find more updates on the [Summit agenda](#).

Be sure to also read the following articles from the U.S. Chamber for additional EFCA information - add these pieces to your toolkit, too!

[Congress Should Protect the Private Vote](#)
[The Employee Free Choice Act: A Bad Deal For Small Businesses and Employees](#)
[Time To Do Away With Secret Ballots?](#)

Outreach Updates

Earlier this week, the St. Cloud Area Chamber hosted their regional Card Check seminar - about 70 people from the area attended! On Thursday, the Minneapolis Regional, Saint Paul Area and Midway Chambers of Commerce held their EFCA workshop in Saint Paul. Thank you for helping to raise awareness!

More than 60 business representatives from across Minnesota's Congressional District 1 had an opportunity to discuss the Employee Free Choice Act with Representative Walz this past week. The negative implications on these businesses was clearly articulated to Representative Walz in hopes of persuading him to reconsider his support of the issue. Representative Walz did indicate that he was "not a lock" on the issue and "is open" to hearing more. With that in mind, we encourage you and your members to contact him and advocate for opposition of Card Check.

The MetroNorth Chamber, led by President Tom Snell, has been busy making calls to members

and use to communicate with your members. We recommend that you put these tools to use now as it is critical to keep informing your members about the pending legislation.

Letters to Congress

Check out the coalition's letter to Congress [here](#). If you have not signed on yet, please do so now by clicking on "Add you name to this letter."

Don't forget, now is the time to send a letter to your respective delegates in Congress. When you do, contact Dan Nelson of the U.S. Chamber (dnelson@uschamber.com) as the Chamber will hand deliver any letters to members of Congress at their Washington D.C. offices. We recommend that you take advantage of this opportunity as it can take weeks for items sent via regular mail to reach Congressional leaders.

Here's a list of [Congressional contact information](#). This list now also contains the addresses of both Coleman's and Franken's campaign offices as we've had requests for their contact information.

Minnesota Business Leaders: Your Go-To Resource

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

over the past several weeks urging them to contact Senator Amy Klobuchar about Card Check. So far they have connected with about 375 members. This is a great example of a grassroots strategy you and your chamber could employ as well.

Throughout the month of March, the Austin Area, North Hennepin and Richfield Chambers of Commerce will all be discussing Card Check during their monthly meetings in order to learn more about the pending legislation. Thanks for making time to talk about the issue with your members.

Upcoming seminars and their hosts:

Wednesday, March 4: I-94 West, Elk River, Monticello, North Hennepin, Buffalo and Minnesota Chambers

Wednesday, March 11: Rochester Area and Minnesota Chambers

Friday, March 13: Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Fargo Moorhead and Minnesota Chambers

Monday, March 16: Brainerd Lakes and Minnesota Chambers, Lake Area Human Resource Association

Legislative Update

EFCA is expected to be introduced any day in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. In anticipation, opponents in the Senate and House of Representatives have gone on the offensive by introducing their own legislation titled the "Secret Ballot Protection Act" that would guarantee a private vote in union organizing. Meanwhile, *USAToday* reported that Andrew Stern, president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), said this week that he thinks there are enough votes in the House and Senate to approve the bill known as "card check." The U.S. Chamber's VP for Labor Policy responded to this allegation saying that "no one has introduced the legislation in Congress this year, however, which

indicates unions are losing momentum. I feel quite good that if there were a vote in the Senate today, it would fail."

Proponents of the bill are actively seeking co-sponsors and we fully expect they will have over 200 co-sponsors when introduced. We are hearing that some Members of Congress who had co-sponsored are holding off and might be the cause of the temporary delay. We hope Members of Congress will resist requests to co-sponsor the proposed legislation. Since the House of Representatives passed the bill in the last Congress by a vote of 241-185, consideration is expected to be swift and floor consideration early in the new session.

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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