

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: Weeks of March 30 and April 6

Are You a Coalition Member Yet?

Minnesota Business Leaders would like to thank the Austin Area Chamber of Commerce for joining the coalition as its 48th member. If you're still thinking of joining MBL, 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
- Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand

The Fight to Stop Card Check Is Not Over!



*By Tom Donohue,
President and CEO, U.S.
Chamber of Commerce
April 7, 2009*

Fairness and freedom in the workplace recently received a boost when Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) announced his opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), better known as card check. This economically poisonous legislation would effectively eliminate the right to secret ballot elections in unionization votes and, through binding arbitration, it would give government authorities the power to dictate wages, benefits, and other fundamental business operations. Without Sen. Specter's support, card check

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

**Plan to Meet your Member
 of Congress during the
 Upcoming District Work**

advocates will find it more difficult, though not impossible, to muster the 60 votes necessary to break a Senate filibuster.

By organizing grassroots opposition to card check, the U.S. Chamber is playing an instrumental role in defending the rights of employers and employees alike. We brought hundreds of small business owners and representatives from state and local chambers to Washington to explain to their elected representatives how EFCA would undermine their ability to create jobs and grow their businesses. The importance of grassroots activism in opposing card check cannot be overstated--the thousands of Americans who took time to write or call their members of Congress deserve tremendous credit.

Yet the battle is far from over. Union bosses and their congressional allies aren't going to throw in the towel. They will continue to lobby for card check and other policies--including a new ergonomics standard and mandatory paid leave--that would cripple businesses struggling to survive a recession and compete in a worldwide market. Efforts are already under way to attract the support of senators who were wary of backing the original bill.

There is no cause for complacency. Even if EFCA fails this year, organized labor will try again next year. Unions are sure to make card check a major election issue in 2010--and will put millions of dollars behind candidates who support the union position. So we are redoubling our efforts in response. The Chamber will continue to make the case to the American people and their representatives that card check would be a bad idea in a good economy, but it would have catastrophic consequences in the current environment.

Sen. Specter is to be commended for standing up

Period

Congress is in recess for Easter/Passover April 6-17. Members of Congress will be home during this time creating an opportunity for business leaders to meet with members of the MN Delegation on EFCA/Card Check. Attending a Town Hall Meeting, hosting an event by the local chamber or other business groups, setting up a small group meeting at the Member's field office, or organizing a business tour are all great ways to share your concern and opposition to this legislation. If you are interested in organizing a meeting or event, please contact Jennifer Byers at the MN Chamber of Commerce, jbyers@mnchamber.com or 651-292-4673.

Upcoming Events

Speaking of Town Hall Meetings, 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](#).

for the time-honored rights of American workers in the face of tremendous political pressure. In the days ahead, we will be working with legislators in both parties to defeat legislation that would cripple economic growth and job creation and, instead, work for positive solutions that put Americans back to work. On this, there can be no surrender.

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!

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

Chambers from across the state have been busy

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 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=
"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

getting the word out on Card Check...

Click [here](#) to view a copy of the EFCA op-ed submitted by the **Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead**. The piece ran in both *The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead* and the *West Fargo Pioneer* last week.

EFCA has been an important topic in the **Winona Area Chamber's** community lately. Check out the editorial by a former union member that was featured in the *Winona Post* last week [here](#).

Click on these links to view two additional Card Check pieces that ran in the *Winona Daily News*:

[Our view: Where's the need for card check?](#)
[Schmidt's assessment of card check is accurate](#)

As seen in the Pioneer Press...

Opinion: 'Employee Free Choice Act': The ends are debatable; the means, unacceptable

The St. Paul Pioneer Press says: At its core, the argument over the pro-union federal legislation known as the Employee Free Choice Act is over whether more and stronger unions are good or bad. To unions and to most business interests, the answers are obvious and opposite. The usual tensions apply. Unions want to win power and influence from employers on behalf of employees and to sustain themselves, and employers want the freedom to run their businesses as they see fit and as market conditions warrant. The tensions, rooted as they are in American traditions of free enterprise and free association, are natural, and can even be constructive. But the problem with this legislation - and the reason it should be defeated - is that it short-circuits the argument and jumps to the conclusion that more and stronger unions are good. That conclusion, or its opposite, is for individuals - not the federal government - to determine.

http://www.twincities.com/opinion/ci_12066587

information to assist you with your outreach.

**Minnesota Business
Leaders: Your Go-To
Resource**

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

In national EFCA news, the Wall Street Journal ran an op-ed piece earlier this week titled "Why Card Check is Unconstitutional." Read the entire article [here](#).

Finally, *CongressDaily* featured this Card Check [piece](#) on Tuesday.

Legislative Update

On Tuesday, Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Arkansas) made an important announcement about her position of the "Employee Free Choice Act" (EFCA). According to a statement recently released by her office, she said:

"While I may not have been clear about my position in the past, I am stating today that I cannot support Employee Free Choice Act in its current form and I can't support efforts to bring it to Senate consideration in its current form. I will consider alternatives that have the support of both business and labor but my pledge today is to focus my full attention on the priorities I have mentioned that affect every working family in Arkansas."

Sen. Lincoln's statement is good news – her announcement makes it even less likely that the Senate Democratic Leadership will be able to break a filibuster should they try to push through EFCA this year.

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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Our mailing address is: 380 Jackson Street, Suite 287, Saint Paul, MN 55101

Our telephone:
651.221.0850

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