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# 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 March 16**

## **Are You a Coalition Member Yet?**

The Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce is the latest organization to join Minnesota Business Leaders, which brings the coalition's total member count to 47!

- Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber
- Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber
- Apple Valley Chamber
- Brainerd Lakes Chamber
- Burnsville Chamber
- Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead
- Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks
- Dakota County Regional Chamber

## **A Union Power Grab**

The following article, written by the U.S. Chamber's president, Tom Donohue, can be featured in your organization's newsletters, e-newsletters, or even as an op-ed piece. Simply insert your organization's name in the line at the bottom of the article. Let us know if you are going to use it!



**By Tom Donohue, President and CEO,  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
March 17, 2009**

President Obama's hard-charging chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, says that you should "never

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

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### 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

allow a crisis to go to waste." Big labor appears to be heeding that advice. It's trying to sell the badly misnamed Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)--better known as card check--as a cure to rising unemployment and the ticket to a better life for the middle class.

If you're going to fib, you may as well make it a whopper!

The unions are also insisting that the legislation be rammed through Congress as quickly as possible before the economic crisis passes or Americans discover the real facts about what it would do. Namely, it would effectively eliminate secret ballot elections in unionization votes and, through binding arbitration, give government authorities the power to dictate wages, benefits, and other fundamental business operations.

Why should every business care? Because card check would make union organizing cheaper and faster, thereby putting even the smallest companies in the unions' crosshairs. Why should every worker care? Because it would strip away America's tradition of secret ballot elections and expose workers to intimidation and coercion. The bill would ultimately destroy jobs by making it more difficult for businesses to adapt and innovate. This is exactly the wrong prescription for our ailing economy.

A new study, which was conducted by the nonpartisan consulting firm LECG, determined that card check legislation would negatively impact the landscape of the U.S. economy, increasing unemployment and stifling job growth for all Americans. In fact, the predicted increase of 1.5 million new union members in one year would lead to the loss of 600,000 jobs by the following year.

Additionally, a recent analysis conducted by

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>
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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.

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### We Need Your Communications Pieces

Things are heating up on the Card Check issue across the state of Minnesota. More and more chambers and trade associations are looking for examples of good communications pieces for their members to use. Please forward anything you've used as part of your member communications to [larry@dowellstute.com](mailto:larry@dowellstute.com). We will share this information with other organizations that need help.

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### Let's Take Your Concerns to

labor experts at the U.S. Chamber found that increased unionization is anything but a ticket to the middle class. The states with the highest rates of union membership also have the lowest rates of job growth.

Why would Congress even consider passing such legislation? I can give you 450 million reasons-- that's how many dollars big labor shoveled into the 2008 elections. Now, it's payback time.

The U.S. Chamber in partnership with \_\_\_\_\_ is leading the fight against this power grab by the unions. In these troubling and uncertain times, we know one thing for sure--when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. Card check would delay and undermine economic recovery, and that's why it must be defeated. Every worker should have the right to join or leave a union under fair rules. Card check is not fair--and it's not right for America.

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## Outreach Updates

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber**, along with the Lakes Area Human Resource Association, held the most recent seminar on Monday in Brainerd. About 30 people attended - thanks to Lisa Paxton for organizing this event in the region.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce recently published a great piece on EFCA, which we wanted to share as an example of outreach from across the country. Click [here](#) to view a copy of it and feel free to use as a reference for ideas for your own Card Check communications pieces.

### Chambers from Across the State Are On the Offensive

This week, the **Winona Chamber's** Della Schmidt (the Winona Chamber's president) was featured in an

**DC...**

Have you marked your calendar for May 11-13 yet? MCCE's 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. 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.

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

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

article titled "Business Leaders Criticize Walz for Backing Labor Bill." Click [here](#) to view the article from the *Winona Daily News*.

Moreover, the **Winona Chamber** ran their own ad this week in the *Winona Daily News* giving the sometimes overlooked facts about EFCA. Check out the Winona Chamber's [ad](#). If you want to consider such an ad in your community's paper, please contact Della or the coalition.

Lastly, click [here](#) to view the response a Winona business person sent to Congressman Walz's chief of staff after he made the argument that belonging to a chamber is no different than joining a union.

**The Elk River Area and I-94 West Chambers** teamed up to submit an EFCA op-ed to a local paper - view their piece [here](#).

Finally, read the [article](#) by Ken Warner, **Willmar Lakes Area Chamber** president, that appeared in the *West Central Tribune*.

Great work everyone on a hugely successful week. Our combined communications are being felt on Capitol Hill. Over 20,000 pieces of mail were delivered to Congress last week alone through the US Chamber's networks.

If we have missed your Chamber's efforts - letters, newsletter articles, or other communications, please send forward so we can recognize your work!

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## Legislative Update

As reported in last week's newsletter, the misnamed "Employee Free Choice Act" has been introduced in both the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. Rep. George Miller (D-CA-07) introduced H.R. 1409 with 222 co-sponsors while Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) introduced the companion bill S. 560 with 39 co-sponsors in the Senate. The two bills are identical to the legislation that passed the House of

Representatives in 2007 (241-185) and later stalled in the Senate after cloture failed (51-48) where 60 votes are needed.

It is critical that all Members of Congress - for or against - hear from voters. Members of Congress from MN that chose to co-sponsor the bill include: Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Tim Walz (MN-1), Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4), Congressman Keith Ellison (MN-5), Congressman Collin Peterson (MN-7) and Congressman James Oberstar (MN-8). Moreover, please be sure to thank the members of the MN Delegation who did NOT co-sponsor EFCA. They include: Congressman John Kline (MN-2), Congressman Erik Paulsen (MN-3) and Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (MN-6).

Please use this link for a full list of House co-sponsors and Senate co-sponsors. Use this link to view the text for the House of Representative's bill.

Consideration by the House Education and Labor Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee remains uncertain. Moreover, we fully expect a filibuster against the bill when it makes it to the Senate floor for debate - requiring the 60 vote cloture vote to move to passage of the bill. The good news is that it appears that the bill's proponents are short of 60-votes in the Senate.

Members of Congress need to know that you and your members are vehemently opposed to EFCA. You can use the VoteForBusiness.com online communication system to reach your legislator. Also, now is a good time to send letters to the editor or an op-ed expressing your thoughts on those who co-sponsored this mis-guided legislation.

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.

Unsubscribe <<Email Address>> from this list.

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

Our telephone:  
651.221.0850

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