

# Minnesota Business Leaders

*A coalition powered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce along with chambers, associations, and businesses*



Register today for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce America's Small Business Summit in 2011! The Summit brings together business owners and local state chamber executives in Washington to rally for free enterprise, entrepreneurship and economic opportunity. Speakers this year include General Stanley McChrystal, Pandora Radio Founder Tim Westergren, and many others including U.S. Chamber President and CEO Tom Donohue.

Over the course of three days, Summit attendees will network, meet with their elected officials to advocate for pro-growth policies, and hear from

## Contact the NLRB Today!

In our last issue of the Minnesota Business Leaders newsletter, we mentioned that while the Employee Free Choice Act had failed to pass, it was probably not the last time we would see it. While we haven't seen it yet, we have seen the National Labor Relations Board issue many pro-labor rule changes that will negatively impact the workplace.

One recent proposed change would require nearly every employer in the United States to post a notice of labor rights both in hard copy and electronically. As many of you probably expect, the notice is biased. The notice does not indicate employees have the right to object to paying union dues or fees for political purposes. It also does not inform employees that unionization means the loss of the right to bargain directly with management, or how employees might decertify an unwanted union.

The proposed rule also could eliminate a statutory requirement that states allegations of violations need to be filed within six months. Eliminating this time limit could put employers in jeopardy years after a supposed violation.

Does the proposal give excessive authority to the NLRB? Currently, it does not have the authority to hand out punishments; it can only correct violations of the statute. Under this proposal, the NLRB states it has the ability to

Washington insiders and business experts on policies that are impacting American businesses.

Date: Monday, May 23- Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel  
2500 Calvert Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

<http://www.uschambersummit.com/>

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### MBL Coalition Members

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber  
Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber  
Apple Valley Chamber  
Austin Area Chamber  
Brainerd Lakes Chamber  
Burnsville Chamber  
Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks  
Dakota County Regional Chamber  
Duluth Area Chamber  
Eden Prairie Chamber  
Edina Chamber  
Elk River Area Chamber  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce  
Fairmont Area Chamber  
Faribault Area Chamber  
Greater Wayzata Area Chamber  
Grand Rapids Area Chamber  
Hastings Area Chamber  
Hutchinson 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

find employers guilty for failure to comply.

The NLRB is taking comments on this proposal and **we urge you to notify your members!** To learn additional background, see suggested text and send an official comment, [click here](#).

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## Cravaack Visits With Chambers in 8th

Newly elected Congressman Chip Cravaack, Jim Oberstar's replacement in the eighth congressional district, visited with chambers in Duluth on January 31. The Congressman and chamber representatives toured the NewPage Corporation paper mill and had a lunch meeting at Mr. D's Bar & Grill. Topics discussed include budget deficit control, social security solvency and timber issues. PolyMet, the proposed mine in northeastern Minnesota, was discussed at great length as the congressman believes the proposed copper mine would be a great source of jobs in Minnesota.

Meetings with members of congress have proven to be an excellent way for chambers to get their message across. We thank Congressman Chip Cravaack for taking the time to meet with those who represent the employers of his district.

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## Republican Call for NLRB Cuts Coming Soon?

The National Labor Relations Board, a board that has typically been seen as neutral, is shifting into an advocacy role. Recent rulings have had a pro-union slant and appear to be a way for the organized labor movement to push their agenda without Congressional approval. [In this article](#), "Republicans Likely to Push for Budget Cuts at NLRB Soon", the *Daily Caller* covers the story, including thoughts from the House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman, Minnesota's

- 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
- Redwood Area Chamber
- 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
- Willmar Lakes Area Chamber
- Winona Area Chamber
- Worthington Area Chamber

**America's Job Creators Need Clear Direction**



The dramatic increase of regulation, from the health care bill, to financial regulations reform, energy and labor, has caused uncertainty for business owners across the country. As the government expands, the private sector

John Kline.

**A Plan for Economic Renewal**



Tom Donahue, President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The U.S. Chamber federation was tested like never before in 2010—a faltering economy, huge policy battles, and an aggressive campaign to vilify the business community, divide it against itself, and silence our voice in the political process. I’m pleased to say that by standing together and speaking with a united voice on the big issues, we made a tremendous impact. But our work is far from over—in 2011, we must redouble our efforts to revitalize the economy and put Americans back to work.

We’ve already observed the big changes that can take place in a single year. In January 2010, we worried about the possibility of a double-dip recession. Today, the state of American business has improved. This is due to both the impressive resilience of our economy and the enactment of the tax relief package in late December. For these reasons, the Chamber projects that the economy will enjoy solid growth in 2011.

Although our economy is improving, the recovery is fragile and we still face many significant challenges. Foremost among these challenges is unemployment, which has exceeded 9% for 20 consecutive months. That hasn’t happened since the 1930s. Next, our nation must contend with unprecedented competitive challenges as other countries race to implement pro-growth reforms. Finally, America faces unsustainable long-term financial burdens—massive deficits, runaway entitlements, and unfunded public employee obligations at all levels of government.

has recoiled--hurting American jobs, economic growth and our country's ultimate recovery.

The path to recovery lies in bringing certainty to the regulatory environment, not more regulations that tax American employers out of business. Visit [thiswaytojobs.com](http://thiswaytojobs.com) to learn more about the difficulties being places in front of job creators, and play the [online board game](#) to see if you can successfully navigate them and create lasting prosperity for our country.

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### MBL Resource Website

Visit the coalition's website TODAY!

[www.mnbusinessleaders.com](http://www.mnbusinessleaders.com)

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### 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](#)

Have you Joined the Virtual March against Card Check Yet?



Overcoming these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. Four areas will be among the business communities' priorities in 2011—reining in excessive regulations, expanding American trade, rebuilding our economic foundation, and reducing deficits and debt.

First, we must restrain excessive regulation while reforming the regulatory process. At the federal level alone, regulations already fill 150,000 pages of fine-print text and cost Americans \$1.7 trillion a year. In recent years, we have seen an explosion of new regulatory activity that is simply unprecedented. This regulatory tsunami poses, in our view, the single biggest challenge to jobs, our global competitiveness, and the future of American free enterprise.

Second, we will fight to advance a pro-America trade agenda with the goal of doubling exports in five years and creating millions of new jobs. Many Americans, regrettably, think that trade agreements kill jobs—that foreign investment and immigration threaten our national sovereignty and U.S. jobs. To change these misperceptions, we'll soon launch a major initiative to educate citizens and policymakers on trade that will clearly link global engagement to American jobs.

Third, we must make it a priority to rebuild the country's economic foundation. Roads, bridges, rail and mass transit networks, airports, and air transport systems must be modernized. Broadband capacity, power generation, and water supplies must be expanded. At the same time, we must recommit ourselves to developing our human capital by reforming education and training programs.

Last, businesses, like all Americans, must do their part to help address another defining challenge of our times—the expansion of government spending and entitlements, and with it, the explosion of government debt. Conventional wisdom says that no effort to address deficits will be considered until after the 2012 elections. We can't wait that long. At the very least, a serious

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

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

down payment on bringing deficits and debt under control should be made this year. The Chamber will support congressional efforts to reduce spending, even if we don't like all the details.

These are challenging times and I can't thank you enough for your continued support of this organization. Our strength doesn't reside in a building made of marble and stone—it comes from our network of state and local chambers and the grassroots activism of their members. If, in the days ahead, the Chamber federation remains united, there is no limit to what we can achieve on behalf of our members.

The challenges facing us this year are big—but so are the opportunities. Throughout it all, the business community will lead the way.

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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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