

January 20, 2009

To: Senators Landrieu and Vitter and Congressman Melancon.

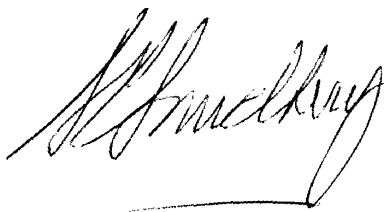
The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 800 businesses and 25,000 employees in the region, strongly opposes H.R. 800/S. 1041, the "Employee Free Choice Act," which is expected to be reintroduced and considered in the early part of the 111th Congress. The Chamber urges you to oppose this legislation.

The Chamber believes this bill would undermine long standing principles of workplace democracy and fairness and result in employees having less ability to determine if they wish to be represented by a union. The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) is being promoted by organized labor as labor law reform to level the playing field and allow employees to more easily form unions. This bill does not represent "reform" in any sense of the word. Rather, the legislation will radically restructure 60 years of carefully crafted labor law balances that have served both unions and employers well for many decades.

Additionally, the Card Check bill includes a "binding arbitration" provision that would let the federal government dictate wages and benefits under a union contract, and then deprive workers of the chance to vote on that contract. This expansion of government power is tantamount to reestablishing wage and price controls in our economy, and could put many employers out of business.

The Chamber believes that the Employee Free Choice Act would have a particularly devastating impact on small employers who, as the primary source for new jobs, would be counted on to reverse the current economic downturn. You may hear that the EFCA should be considered in the context of helping to revive the economy. This bill is an awful idea in good economic times and a catastrophic idea in the difficult economic times now upon us.

Sincerely,



Sidney Sundbery
Chairman of the Board



Drake Pothier, IOM
President & CEO