From: Chamber Communications
To: Liz Kerns;
Subject: March 11, 2009 - Local Chambers" Grassroots Action Needed on Card Check
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 9:32:17 AM

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce periodically sends messages to members and friends on issues critical to Illinois business. If you prefer to not receive these emails, please scroll to the bottom of this message and change your subscription preferences.

ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Local Chamber Update

Illinois Chamber
Local Chamber Relations
www.ilchamber.org

announcement and grassroots alert! **March 11, 2009**

As promised at our January Legislative Summit, we are launching our coalition and website against Card Check

You told us over and over on January 26: Card Check is on your minds and your members' minds. Yesterday the Employee Free Choice Act legislation was introduced in Congress, and today, we are asking you to join us in fighting this legislation that, if passed, would cost our country another 600,000 jobs at the worst possible time and strip workers of their right to cast a private ballot in a union organizing campaign.

Below is the news release we've sent out today announcing our new website, www.workforcefreedomillinois.com, where you can direct your members to learn more about the potential effects of card check and reach out in your community as well as to your local media and of course your elected representatives in Washington DC.

Sample messages and letters are available on the site for you and your members. Please visit www.workforcefreedomillinois.com and pitch in via grassroots outreach, a donation to help us wage this fight, an example of union organizing tactics you've witnessed. We will be adding the names of local chambers who wish to be listed as partners in this coalition over the next few days, so please let us know if we can add your chamber to the list. Thank you.

NEWS RELEASE
March 11, 2009

Media Contact: Todd Maisch, VP, Government Affairs, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
217-522-5512 ext. 233, tmaisch@ilchamber.org or

Deb McCarver, Director of Communications, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
217-522-5512 ext. 244, dmccarver@ilchamber.org

Illinois Chamber Launches Coalition, Website Organizing Illinois Business against Card Check Legislation

www.workforcefreedomillinois.com provides resources for employers, employees to understand why grossly-misnamed Employee Free Choice Act will cost Illinois jobs

Springfield, Ill. -- At a time when Illinois jobs are already dwindling due to recession, Illinois employers are ready to fight against more job losses predicted if the grossly-misnamed Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), introduced in the US Senate yesterday, passes.

The Workforce Freedom Illinois Coalition, launched by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the federal bill's introduction, is encouraging employers and employees to speak out in support of their right to a secret ballot in voting for or against union representation.

"If Card Check legislation passes, workers lose their right to cast a secret ballot in a union organizing election, sacrificing a fundamental voting tradition," stated Todd Maisch, VP of Government Affairs for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

"Under Card Check, if union organizers can persuade more than 50% of workers at a facility to sign cards, they win; you may learn your work unit has been unionized without even having known it was under consideration."

A new study released last week by noted economist Dr. Anne Layne-Farrar, *An Empirical Assessment of the Employee Free Choice Act: The Economic Implications,* every 3 percentage points gained in union membership through card checks and mandatory arbitration will result in a 1 percentage point rise in the unemployment the following year.

The unionization of 1.5 million existing jobs in year one would lead to the loss of 600,000 jobs by the following year, roughly equaling one month's worth of job losses the US is currently experiencing.

"Big Labor claims EFCA gives workers the ability to negotiate for better pay and benefits, but they're not being honest," Maisch continued. "States with the heaviest union presence are worse off than states with the least across a number of economic indicators, meaning that the people living in those states have fewer opportunities to succeed and move into the middle class."

According to the Chamber's coalition website, www.workforcefreedomillinois.com, the ease with which unions could conduct and win card check campaigns vastly lowers their cost to conduct such campaigns, increasing the likelihood they will target smaller businesses with smaller units. Industries such as banks, retailers, hotels, and healthcare facilities are considered prime targets if card check campaigns can be waged in businesses with typically smaller workforces.

"NLRB elections have been a fundamental element of labor-management policies since the 1930s, and this one-sided legislation would wipe them out, along with millions of workers' rights and their jobs," Maisch concluded. "Illinois businesses need incentives to grow and create more jobs, not incentives to go out of business, so we will be letting Illinoisans and our representatives in Washington know this is a bad policy at the worst possible time."

The Coalition's website provides links to email representatives, write letters to editors of local papers, and tell stories of union coercion experienced in past organizing efforts.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce promotes the interests of Illinois business by working to improve the state's business climate. The Illinois Chamber aggressively advocates legislation and public policies that support economic growth, and is a source of timely and reliable information on matters important to its members, Illinois employers and the general public. The Illinois Chamber also provides effective programs and services to its 3,500+ members to meet their business needs, including immediate answers to tax and human resources concerns and access to training and consulting services.

###

Copyright © 2009 The Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Liz Kerns, Director of Local Chamber Relations

This message was sent from Chamber Communications to lkerns@ilchamber.org. It was sent from: Illinois Chamber of Commerce, 215 East Adams St, Springfield, IL 62701. You can modify/update your subscription via the link below.

Powered by iContact Email Marketing Simplified

To be removed click here FORWARD THIS MESSAGE

Share this message with others: del.icio.us Digg reddit Facebook StumbleUpon