



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
251 E. Front St., Suite 205
Boise, ID 83702

The Honorable Jim Risch
United States Senate
350 N. 9th St., Suite 302
Boise, ID 83702

The Honorable Mike Simpson
United States House of Representatives
802 W. Bannock St., Suite 600
Boise, ID 83702

The Honorable Walt Minnick
United States House of Representatives
33 Broadway Ave., Suite 251
Meridian, ID 83642

Dear Senator Crapo, Senator Risch, Congressman Simpson, and Congressman Minnick,

As you know, the "Employee Free Choice Act" or "card check" bill would fundamentally alter federal labor laws and undermine traditional protections of American workers' privacy and security. To maintain and encourage a competitive American work force, the federal government must protect the confidential nature of workers' votes.

Among the Act's problems is that it would violate the process that allows employees to choose whether they want union representation through a secret ballot. The legislation would eliminate the confidentiality that workers enjoy by neither the union nor the employer knowing how they vote. It is a particularly troubling change since a recent poll showed that 75 percent of Americans believe a free and impartial secret ballot election is the fairest way for workers to decide on union membership.

In addition, the Act would impose contract terms on employers beyond those actually requested by workers. In fact, the National Labor Relations Board would essentially be authorized to force an employer to implement a collective bargaining agreement imposed by an arbitrator rather than through the traditional process of unions working independently on an agreement between the employer and employees. The result would be union executives far removed from the work place inserting their own priorities without consultation with the affected workers. That would be an unprecedented government intrusion on the right to bargain freely about working terms and conditions.

I respectfully request that you oppose this legislation and cast your vote against it. Thank you for your consideration of this issue in the best interest of Idahoans.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.L. Butch Otter".

CLO/mw

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho