



# California Metals Coalition

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March 13, 2009

TO: US Senator Diane Feinstein, US Senator Barbara Boxer, US Congressman Tom McClintock

Fax Number:

**RE: Opposition of Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)**

Dear Distinguished Leaders:

The **California Metals Coalition (CMC)** was established in 1972 and today represents over 200 metalworking corporations and 7 regional metalworking trade organizations—employing over 25,000 Californians with living-wage manufacturing jobs and benefits. Many of these employees are already union workers.

CMC is writing you in opposition of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), recently introduced in Congress. In the last few years alone, California has vetoed similar pieces of legislation (AB 2386, SB 180, SB 867, AB 1164, and SB 697) that would have stripped employees of the secret ballot process to unionize.

Legendary California farm worker organizer Cesar Chavez won a major victory in 1975 with the passage of a state law that guaranteed secret ballot elections for farmworker unions.

The "card check" system fundamentally alters an employee's right to a secret ballot election. Under the "card check" system, the union organizers themselves oversee the process, and the workers' votes are made public to the employer, the union organizers and co-workers. The system also eliminates the opportunity for employees to hear and consider other viewpoints on unionization.

Threatening to close down if the union wins, firing or blacklisting pro-union workers, or threatening to shutter company housing are all considered unfair labor practices and are illegal under state law.

The California Metals Coalition believes that workers are better protected from interference and intimidation by casting their vote privately with a secret ballot. To take away employees' access to a private secret ballot is undemocratic. Please oppose the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).

Most Sincerely,

James Simonelli  
Executive Director

cc: CMC Board of Directors