

# **ALERT**

Legislative Alert # 174

February 13, 2007

H.R. 800, The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) has been introduced and already has 232 co-sponsors on its first day.

EFCA would make certain that the decision to join a union would be made by workers - not their employer. It will put an end to the threats, intimidation, and harassment that tens of thousands of employees face by allowing workers to sign cards (also known as "card checks") indicating their interest to have an election for union representation. The bill would also place stronger penalties on employers who try to thwart those seeking union representation.

Just last week, Keith Ludlum, a veteran of the first Iraq war who has been working to bring a union into Smithfield's Tar Heel, North Carolina plant testified before the House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions on the importance of EFCA. His testimony can be viewed at <http://www.ufcw.org/> or contact us to have a copy faxed to you.

Please look on <http://thomas.loc.gov> and see if your Member of Congress co-sponsored H.R. 800. If they have co-sponsored, please call and thank them. Also, the bill will be marked up in the full House Education and Labor Committee this Wednesday. **Please contact those on the committee, both Democrats and Republicans and encourage them to make no changes to EFCA.**

## **Members of the House Education and Labor Committee:**

### **Democrats:**

George Miller (CA)  
Dale Kildee (MI)  
Donald Payne (NJ)  
Robert Andrews (NJ)  
Bobby Scott (VA)  
Lynn Woolsey (CA)  
Ruben Hinojosa (TX)  
Carolyn McCarthy (NY)

David Wu (OR)  
Rush Holt (NJ)  
Susan Davis (CA)  
Danny Davis (IL)  
Raul Grijalva (AZ)  
Tim Bishop (NY)  
Linda Sanchez (CA)  
John Tierney (MA)

Mazie Hirono (HI)  
Jason Attmire (PA)  
John Yarmuth (KY)  
Phil Hare (IL)  
Dave Loebsack (IA)  
Joe Sestak (PA)  
John Sarbanes (MD)  
Dennis Kucinich (OH)

### **Republicans:**

Howard McKeon (CA)  
Mike Castle (DE)  
Judy Biggert (IL)  
Joe Wilson (SC)  
Kenny Marchant (TX)  
Virginia Foxx (NC)  
David Davis (TN)

Tom Petri (WI)  
Mark Souder (IN)  
Todd Platts (PA)  
John Kline (MN)  
Tom Price (GA)  
Randy Kuhl (NY)  
Tim Walberg (MI)

Pete Hoekstra (MI)  
Vernon Ehlers (MI)  
Ric Keller (FL)  
Bob Inglis (SC)  
Charles Boustany (LA)  
Rob Bishop (UT)  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)

Additionally, on Wednesday, January 31, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) decided to grant a one year moratorium on allowing companies such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot Inc. to establish their own banks, called Industrial Loan Companies (ILC). (See the UFCW Press Release about their decision at: <http://www.ufcw.org/press room>)

This is major victory for our union and our allies who have joined us in stopping Wal-Mart from acquiring a bank.

Despite the FDIC ruling, our work is not done. We want to place the final nail in the coffin of Wal-Mart banking by supporting bipartisan legislation that would strengthen the regulation of existing ILCs; place activity and branching limitations on existing ILCs; and prohibit the creation of new commercially owned banks.

**ASK:** Following up on our January 19 ALERT, if you haven't already done so, **please call your Member of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 698, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act. Tell them banking and commerce should remain separate.**

As of today there are 49 cosponsors, which is short of our goal of 150.

**Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be transferred to your Member of Congress.**