



Grover G. Norquist

President

June 24, 2004

Chairman Robert J. Battista
National Labor Relations Board
1099 14th St., NW
Washington, DC 20570-0001

Dear Chairman Battista:

I write today to encourage the National Labor Relations Board's investigation of "card check" tactics by labor union organizers.

Intended as a means of last resort for workers, the "card check" method of unionization has become instead a fraudulent end-run around secret ballot voting. Under normal due process of organization, the NLRB officiates a fair and balanced election process that protects the privacy of workers from intimidation by both management and labor union agents. "Card check", by its very nature, invites harassment by union officials, who deprive individual workers of the sacred right to vote in private for their own representation.

Employers can always insist upon a secret election administered by the NLRB, but are intimidated into the thuggery of the "card check" system by union picketing, threats, or comprehensive, "corporate campaigns" to discredit or smear the employer publicly. Even worse, unions intimidate workers into signing "card check" authorization cards by similar strong-arm tactics—potentially creating perpetual union representation where only a minority sentiment for it actually exists.

The secret ballot is the preferred method of organization. "Card checks" should only be an exception of last resort, for the reasons stated above. Unions are successful at winning secret ballot elections—50.4% victory in 1975, 48% victory in 1985, and 50.9% victory in 1995. Widespread "card check" usage is simply unnecessary and contrary to the jurisdictional perquisites of the NLRB.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President

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