



AFTC Joins Coalition of Agriculture Groups Opposing Card Check

March 2, 2009

AFTC recently joined forces with Agriculture for a Democratic Workplace (ADW), a coalition of agricultural associations and organizations working against the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), also known as the "Card Check" bill. The bill would effectively eliminate National Labor Relations Board-supervised secret-ballot elections. Instead, unions could organize employees simply by convincing a majority to sign cards.

While most businesses will be affected by the EFCA, agriculture could feel the effect more acutely, given the size and structure of many individual operations and the sensitivity of agricultural businesses to supply chain disruptions.

While agricultural field workers are not subject to the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) workers in agricultural jobs in packing plants, processing plants, cooling facilities, transportation, and many other off-the-farm worksites do fall under the protections of the NLRA and would be subject to the EFCA. Farmers anticipate that the costs of uncompetitive union contracts for workers beyond the farm will translate into lower prices offered for their crops.

Among the list of over 40 ADW member organizations are the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Chicken Council, the National Council of Agricultural Employers, the National Council of Farmers Cooperatives, the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Potato Council, the National Turkey Federation, the Produce Marketing Association, the Society of American Florists, the United Fresh Produce Association and the U.S. Apple Association.

Information on ADW can be found at www.coalitionforagriculture.org.