



February 4, 2010

Dear Senator:

I write today on behalf of the International Franchise Association (IFA) to strongly urge you to oppose the nomination of Mr. Craig Becker as a member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). We also urge you to vote against cloture on related procedural motions pertaining to his nomination. The IFA is deeply concerned that Mr. Becker will seek to impose aspects of the *Employee Free Choice Act* (EFCA) through rulemaking and Board decisions, including attempts to promote card check organizing and quick, ambush-style elections on small franchised businesses and their employees.

As the largest and oldest franchising trade group, the IFA's mission is to safeguard the business environment for franchising worldwide. IFA represents more than 85 industries, including more than 11,000 franchisee, 1,200 franchisor and 600 supplier members nationwide. According to a 2008 study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, there are more than 900,000 franchised establishments in the U.S. that are responsible for creating 21 million American jobs and generating \$2.3 trillion in economic output.

Currently, Mr. Becker serves as Associate General Counsel to both the AFL-CIO and Service Employees International Union, organizations that strongly support the EFCA. In the past, Mr. Becker has also advocated for limited employer rights in the organizing process. Mr. Becker has stated "employers should be stripped of any legally cognizable interest in their employees' election of representatives." The IFA feels strongly that employees should have the right to information about the benefits and disadvantages of union membership from both labor union organizers and the employer. This will allow employees to make a fully-informed decision about whether or not to join a labor union. Furthermore, the card check provisions of EFCA will eliminate the ability of employees to make that decision in private via the secret ballot election process.

If confirmed, Mr. Becker's belief that the NLRB has the power to impose limitations on the rights of employees and employers in addition to other extreme ideas would significantly restrict and threaten employee privacy. Ultimately, our nation's small businesses and the overall economy would suffer. Therefore, for these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against Mr. Becker's confirmation to serve on the National Labor Relations Board.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David French', is written over a white background.

David French  
Vice President, Government Relations