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February 13, 2007

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the International Franchise Association regarding the House Education and Labor Committee's plan for swift consideration of H.R. 800. Please do not cast aside sixty years of federal labor law for such a misguided piece of legislation.

H.R. 800 will deny workers their right to a federally-supervised, private ballot election when deciding on union membership. In its place, employees would be subjected to a public selection process in which coworkers, supervisors, and union organizers would all be entitled to know each employee's choice. Equally troubling, the bill also forces employers to accept, through binding arbitration, the terms of a first contract if the employer and the union cannot agree. This change in the law is fundamentally unconstitutional, and it will dramatically undermine the ability of any employer to negotiate.

This week, the committee is scheduled to mark up the so-called "Employee Free Choice Act." In place of a thoughtful legislative process, the committee's members have had the benefit of just one subcommittee hearing on this issue. The thin legislative record that will accompany this bill to the floor is built almost entirely from the talking points of organized labor without meaningful input from either business or ordinary workers. In place of a fair system for deciding union representation, the House of Representatives is moving towards a system that will stack the deck against employees and employers, and ensure that the legitimate voice of American workers is stifled.

During last week's subcommittee hearing, one of the witnesses referred to union organizing tactics as a "surprise attack against workers." We consider this bill to be a surprise attack against the rights of workers, and we urge you to vote no and speak out against this dangerous bill.

Sincerely,

David French
Vice President, Government Relations

cc: All Members of the House Committee on Education and Labor