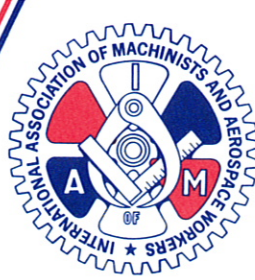


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

February 15, 2011

Subj: Strike NMB Repeal provision
From FAA Bill (H.R. 658)

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the more than 100,000 represented Airline and Railroad workers, **the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers strongly urge you to vote "YES" to Representative Jerry Costello's amendment to strike Section 903 "Repeal of the NMB Rule" from the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011 (H.R. 658).**

In 2010 the National Mediation Board (NMB) changed its archaic rules governing union representation elections from a process that imposed an automatic "no" vote on those who did not participate in the election to a fair process where each eligible voter could for the first time cast a ballot for or against union representation, or choose to abstain without impacting the results of the election. This new rule, which put NMB procedures in line with virtually every other type of election in the United States, is now in jeopardy.

In a free and democratic society people have the right to form and express their own opinions, including the right not to express any opinion. The process of voting under the Railway Labor Act was changed to ensure the voice of everyone who wishes to convey their viewpoint is heard and fairly counted. As has happened every time the government tried to change a voting process to make it fairer and more inclusive, those who sought to suppress democracy loudly objected.

Eliminating the fair voting rights of air and rail workers is wrong. The people and organizations who want to allow the government to again impose a viewpoint on non-participatory voters are wrong. This unfairness lasted for 75 years, and we cannot return to a process that denies voters a fair election process.

The only question for you to consider is which process is the most fair to the working people involved and impacted by union representation elections. I urge you to reject returning to a process in which the government imposes a viewpoint on its citizens. I hope you will support the current process where each person has the opportunity to choose for themselves if they want to vote "yes" or vote "no" for a union, and those who abstain from voting for whatever reason do not influence the outcome of the election.

For further information, please contact Assistant Political and Legislative Director Hasan Solomon (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenberger
International President