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November 6, 2009

Elizabeth Dougherty, Chair
Harry Hoglander, Member
Linda Puchala, Member
National Mediation Board
1301 K St NW, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Chairman Dougherty and Members Hoglander and Puchala:

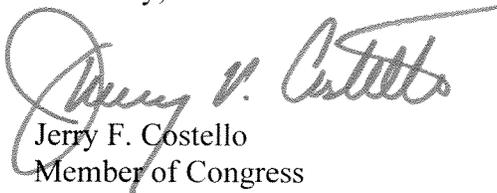
I am writing in support of changing the National Mediation Board (NMB) election procedures for the airline and railroad industries so the majority of employees voting in a union election prevail.

The current system is inherently undemocratic and unreliable in determining whether workers want union representation. No one can choose to abstain from participating and all workers who do not vote are counted as "no" votes against unionization. It is unfair to assign a "no" when no vote has been expressed.

To address this undemocratic process, the NMB should change its election rules to allow workers to vote either "yes" or "no" for a union and have the majority of those voting prevail. This is how other union elections are conducted in this country. This change is long overdue and will ensure employees' full freedom of association.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress

JFC/sb