

David J. Tomassoni, Chair
Economic Development Budget Division

Senator - District 5
St. Louis County

DEC07'09 PM 4:33 AM



Senate

State of Minnesota

December 2, 2009

National Mediation Board
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 East
Washington, D.C. 20005-7011

RE: Docket Number C-6964

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to strongly support the National Mediation Board in their efforts to amend its Railway Labor Act rules as they relate to union representation elections to provide that, in representation disputes, a majority of valid ballots cast will determine the craft or class of representation.

The NMB is alone among governmental agencies in requiring an employee participation threshold in airline and railroad elections in order to win union representation. Under the current rule, if less than 50 percent plus 1 (50% + 1) of the eligible workforce participates in the election, a union will not be certified regardless of the percentage of votes it receives from participants.

Employees who do not vote, for whatever reason, are counted as "no votes" and union representative is lost regardless of the number of employees who actually voted in favor of union representation. Thus, airline and railroad management are rewarded for suppressing employees participation in a National Mediation Board election. This is unfair and stands in contrast to the rules applied in our democratic system in America's general elections wherein a majority of votes cast determine the outcome regardless of the number of voters that participated in the election.

Again, I urge that the National Mediation Board adopt this necessary rule change so as to provide a voting system that is fair to all working men and women.

Sincerely,



David J. Tomassoni
State Senator

DT:lb



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Frank Hornstein
State Representative

District 60B
Hennepin County



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT POLICY AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION (CHAIR)
TRANSPORTATION FINANCE DIVISION
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS REFORM, TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTIONS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION

December 2, 2009

National Mediation Board
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 East
Washington, DC 20005-7011

Dear National Mediation Board Members:

I write today in support of the effort to amend the Railway Labor Act rules to provide that, in representation disputes, a majority of valid ballots cast will determine the craft or class of representation. The current system is unfavorable to union representation and therefore, anti-worker, and furthermore, by counting those who do not vote as a "no-vote" is undemocratic.

Throughout modern history, we have witnessed various union-busting tactics aimed at protecting profits rather than the hard working people who dedicate their lives to their jobs. The current practice through the Railway Labor Act is the antithesis of the democracy we work hard to protect and rewards voter suppression.

I am writing on behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO in support of their work to bring fairness and equal opportunity to ALL working men and women within the transportation industry.

I support the rule change and urge the National Mediation Board to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Hornstein".

Frank Hornstein
State Representative



Tom Anzelc
State Representative

District 3A
Itasca, Koochiching and
Lake of the Woods Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES - COMMERCE AND LABOR
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE DIVISION
K-12 FINANCE DIVISION

December 2, 2009

National Mediation Board
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 East
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Throughout modern history, we have witnessed various union-busting tactics aimed at protecting profits rather than the hard working people who dedicate their lives to their jobs. The current practice through the Railway Labor Act is the antithesis of the democracy we work hard to protect and rewards voter suppression.

I am writing on behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO in support of their work to bring fairness and equal opportunity to ALL working men and women within the transportation industry.

I support the rule change and urge the National Mediation Board to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Anzelc".

Tom Anzelc
State Representative

