



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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March 17, 2009

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President _____,

What's the best shield for a worker when the economy is crumbling? A union card. And what's the best leverage for all of America's workers when the economy is in shambles? A larger, stronger, union movement.

On March 10, 2009 the Employee Free Choice Act bills were introduced in the House and Senate and expected to be voted on within the next 60 to 90 days. We need your help to build the Turn Around America Fund to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. The Employee Free Choice Act is the most significant labor legislation in decades. This bill would allow workers who want to form unions a fair opportunity to do so.

As a local leader in today's labor movement, your role in turning around America's economy is absolutely critical—because we know that whatever other economic recovery measures our country may need, we will not achieve balance and broadly-shared prosperity unless we restore workers' freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life. It's up to us to make sure our economy is reshaped so it is based on family-supporting wages and productivity—not on speculation and Wall Street excess.

Even though we already have a union, the passage of the EFCA is essential to the APWU membership. Corporations increase their profit margins by cutting workers' pay and benefits. A large pool of non-union workers allows these corporations to put downward pressure on workers' attempts to negotiate for decent pay.

A survey of non-union workers revealed that 60 million of these workers want to have a union in their workplace. Among the many "unorganized" are truck drivers, custodians, mail processors, parcel sorters, and retail clerks who work for contractors that perform the same work as APWU bargaining unit employees. As long as these workers are not permitted to have a fair chance to form unions,

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postal jobs will always be threatened. When workers doing similar work make less, postal managers argue that postal pay should be less, also. That is why nothing is more important in these troubled economic times than the power to bargain for job security, health care, better wages and retirement benefits.

We have to show the new Congress and President Obama how broad the support is for the Employee Free Choice Act—and make sure they know that guaranteeing workers the freedom to bargain is a critical part of their mandate for change. We didn't work as hard as we did on the 2008 election just to win an election. We worked for change—for a better future for our members and all working families.

The election was Step 1.

Now I'm asking you to take Step 2.

Help pass the Employee Free Choice Act.

There is no more important battle for us at this moment. And, across the country, every part of the union movement has committed to win this. We're working together everywhere to continue educating and mobilizing our members as we did during Labor 2008—with worksite leafleting, phone banks, neighborhood walks, rapid response actions, and more, to win congressional support for the Employee Free Choice Act.

But there's more we have to do, too. **We have to build a union-movement-wide Turn Around America Fund to counter the \$200 million propaganda war that business front groups are about to wage on us.** And we need for every local union in the country to pitch in.

I can't overstate the scale and the ugliness of the coming anti-Employee Free Choice Act campaign. Industry groups are ready to do and spend whatever it takes to maintain today's broken labor laws and block workers from having a free choice to form unions and bargain. We've seen a preview in the nearly \$20 million worth of attack ads they launched this past summer and fall against pro-worker Senate candidates.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says defeating the Employee Free Choice Act is its top priority. John McCain called the legislation a "threat to democracy." Front groups are labeling it dangerous "political payback to unions," claiming it will kill jobs, and that it's an "undemocratic power grab" by those "union bosses."

These groups and the companies they represent have access to millions of workers and hundreds of millions of dollars. Their tools are money, lies, and corporate lobbyists. And they're going to throw them all at us—hard.

Fortunately, we've got the solid structure of Labor 2008 to work from, six years of an Employee Free Choice Act campaign that gained majority support in Congress in 2007, the recent elections that brought us stronger majorities in both the Senate and the House, and a president who vowed to sign the Employee Free Choice Act.

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Now we need to raise millions of dollars to fund a massive communications campaign to make sure the public, as well as our members, hear the truth about the Employee Free Choice Act. When Americans turn on their televisions, tune in their radios, and open their newspapers, they have to hear from us—not just Richard Berman and National Right to Work.

At the national level, our union is contributing thousands to this fund. But to succeed, we need **you** as well. Don't sit on the side of a fight that will determine the well-being of working families—union and nonunion—for generations. **I urge you to contribute every cent you are able to this campaign.** We recommend a basic contribution of \$2 per member from each local union—and more if you can. **Donations to the Employee Free Choice Act campaign are not restricted by the Hatch Act.** APWU locals can vote to spend money directly from their local's treasury to help pass the Act.

Nothing is more important than the power to bargain for job security when jobs are disappearing, for better wages when only the CEOs are getting raises and bonuses, for better retirement plans when savings are evaporating, and for better health care when so many working families are one illness away from foreclosure and poverty.

Nothing is more important than your part in passing the Employee Free Choice Act. **Please join me in making a generous financial contribution to the Turn Around America Fund today.** Webinars on the Employee Free Choice Act and its importance to postal workers will be available soon. Please plan to attend one.

In solidarity,



Terry R. Stapleton
Secretary-Treasurer



Myke Reid
Legislative Director

P.S. Some 60 million workers would join our unions today if they could—but our broken system allows corporations to harass, intimidate, and even fire them to block them from bargaining for a better life. Right now we have the power to strengthen the bargaining position of union workers, help nonunion workers gain union cards, and raise living and working standards for **all** workers. Please do your part with a generous contribution to the **Turn Around America Fund**.

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Send your check or contribute securely online at www.TAAMediaFund.org.

Please make checks out to: AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer.

In the memo line of your check, note the Turn Around America Fund.

Please mail checks to:

Office of the Executive Vice President
AFL-CIO
815 16th St., N.W.,
Washington, DC 20006

*Important Note: The **Turn Around America Fund** accepts donations only from labor organizations and from individuals on their own behalf.*

Also, please send a copy of your receipt of donation or a copy of your check to Terry Stapleton, Secretary-Treasurer, APWU, 1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. We will post the names of all locals that have contributed to this campaign on our APWU website and in the Postal Worker. If you would like to add a link to the AFL-CIO Employee Free Choice Act to your local web page go to:

<http://afl-cio.org/joinaunion/voicework/efca/bannerads.cfm>

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