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**J. Randy Forbes**  
**United States Congress**

**4th District, Virginia**

March 4, 2009

2438 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6365

425-H SOUTH MAIN STREET  
EMPORIA, VA 23847  
(434) 634-5575

2903 BOULEVARD, SUITE B  
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834  
(804) 526-4969

505 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY  
LAKE CENTER II—SUITE 104  
CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320  
(757) 382-0080

Ms. Becky McDonough  
Hopewell Chamber of Commerce  
P O Box 1297  
Hopewell, Virginia 23860

Dear Ms. McDonough:

Thank you for contacting me in regards to the Employee Free Choice Act. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts on this matter with me.

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, the bill introduced as the Employee Free Choice Act, H.R. 800, would have taken away a worker's right to a federally-supervised secret ballot election when considering whether or not to organize a union. This legislation would overturn a 60-year-old process and reveal employees' votes through what is known as a "card check." This procedure leaves employees open to coercion, intimidation, and pressure by supervisors or union representatives. On March 1, 2007, the House of Representatives passed this legislation by a vote of 241 – 185, but the Senate did not vote on the matter prior to the conclusion of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. I did not support the Employee Free Choice Act last Congress, and, in fact, I supported H.R. 866, the Secret Ballot Protection Act, which would protect the secret ballot process as it stands today by requiring ballot elections to remain private to obtain union certification. In this current 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Employee Free Choice Act has yet to be re-introduced and I have signed on as an original cosponsor of the Secret Ballot Protection Act, which is now H.R. 1176.

I believe workers should be afforded the same rights as general election voters and Members of Congress. For instance, we all vote for President in secret and Members of Congress vote for their leadership in secret, so it is difficult to understand why hardworking Americans should be forced to have a public vote which opens them to intimidation and coercion. It is important that individual workers' rights are protected against coercive activities in the workplace.

Thank you for contacting me with respect to this matter. As always, if I may be of assistance to you on this, or any other issue, please feel free to contact me in my Washington DC office at (202) 225-6365 or online at <http://forbes.house.gov/>. With kind personal regards, I am

Yours truly,

J. RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress

JRF:«Initials»