

February 27, 2007

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth  
United States House of Representatives  
1504 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20105

Dear Representative Herseth:

I am writing on behalf of the Dakota Valley Business Council expressing our opposition to H.R. 800, The Employees Free Choice Act of 2007. The Dakota Valley Business Council is comprised of over eighty businesses in the North Sioux City and Dakota Dunes area of southeast South Dakota.

H.R. 800 will overturn provisions of the National Labor Relations Act that have been in place for more than seventy years. Those provisions that allow employees to determine their desire to be represented by a union through a secret ballot election overseen by the National Labor Relations Board will be swept away by H.R. 800. If the secret election process is replaced with a "card check" process, employees will be subjected to abuse, threats and intimidation from union organizers.

The National Labor Relations Act has established a system that protects the interests of employees and employers by allowing each group to have the opportunity to make their case either for or against a union. It also allows all employees the right to make their choice in private, free from intimidation or coercion. H.R. 800 will give union organizers an unfair advantage in their efforts to convince employees to support a union. We don't elect public officials by a show of hands. Elections are done by a secret ballot for a reason. Voters are not subjected to criticism, repudiation or retaliation when their votes are made by secret ballot. Union organizing efforts should be held to the same standards.

Even as a co-sponsor of H.R. 800, you still have an opportunity to vote against this measure when it comes to the floor of the House. Our business council encourages you to do just that.

Please keep the playing field level and allow a law that has served both employees and employers well for over seventy years to remain in place by voting against H.R. 800.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Brown  
President