



July 20, 2011

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Education and the Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Education and the Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national association with 75 chapters representing more than 23,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms with nearly two million employees, I am writing in support of *the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act* (H.R. 2587).

For more than a year, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has moved forward with an agenda that is stifling job creation and economic growth. The NLRB's decisions, proposed rules, invitations for briefs and enforcement policies demonstrate that the agency has abandoned its role as a neutral enforcer and arbiter of labor law in order to promote the special interests of politically powerful unions.

Recent rulemakings and decisions by the NLRB will have negative implications for workers, consumers, businesses and the economy. These actions inevitably will reduce employee access to secret ballots; limit an employer's ability to effectively communicate the impact of unionization to its workers ("ambush" elections); trample private property rights; invite greater union intimidation of employees, consumers and small businesses; and limit the ability of U.S. businesses to quickly and flexibly adjust to the demands of a changing economy and global competition.

The NLRB has also taken unprecedented steps to mandate where and how one company—Boeing—can operate and expand its business. The NLRB claims Boeing violated the law because of *true* statements the company made about costs related to repeated strikes. The federal government has no right to dictate where a company can or cannot create jobs. ABC supports H.R. 2587 which would encourage investment in our economy by guaranteeing that businesses and entrepreneurs retain the ability to decide where to conduct business and where to locate jobs.

Unfortunately, the NLRB's actions are consistent with the agenda set by the Obama Administration, which has regularly put the interests of its union supporters ahead of fiscal responsibility and job growth. Through interpretations, regulations and executive orders, the Administration has repealed union transparency requirements and consistently promoted union-backed Davis-Bacon and project labor agreements on federal construction projects.

The Administration's policies cost taxpayers billions, negatively impact business opportunities for small and minority owned businesses and limit employment opportunities for workers. Project labor

agreements, for example, discriminate against the vast majority (87 percent) of the construction workforce that chooses not to join a union, denying them an opportunity to work on federal projects.

We commend your leadership and efforts to promote jobs and protect the rights of America's job creators and innovators. At this time of economic challenges, it is unfortunate that the Obama administration and the NLRB continue to move forward with policies that threaten to paralyze the construction industry and impede job growth. With an unemployment rate exceeding 15 percent, ABC members and construction workers cannot afford this burden.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. H. Burr", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoffrey Burr
Vice President, Federal Affairs