

President Tells Unions Organizing Act Will Pass

BY KRIS MAHER

MIAMI—President Barack Obama told AFL-CIO union leaders Tuesday in a videotaped address that the controversial Employee Free Choice Act will pass, signaling his full backing for legislation that makes union organizing easier.

"We will pass the Employee Free Choice Act," President Obama told more than 100 top labor officials in a closed-door meeting at the labor federation's winter gathering in Miami, according to people at the meeting.

The bill would make it easier for unions to recruit workers because it would let them join unions simply by signing cards rather than through secret-ballot elections in which companies can campaign against the union. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations have been campaigning against the legislation.

The president's remarks were taped on Feb. 20, according to a White House spokesman. Following his remarks, AFL-CIO officials held a meeting with Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

Separately, on Wednesday, the AFL-CIO is expected to ask the administration to take a controlling stake in banks that receive government funding and a more active role in restructuring their balance sheets. "We believe the debate over nationalization

is delaying the inevitable bank restructuring, which is something our economy cannot afford," reads a draft of an AFL-CIO statement. Richard Trumka, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, is a member of the White House Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

The Employee Free Choice Act is expected to be introduced in the coming weeks in the Senate. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said in an interview that to help get the bill through Congress, it could be amended in the Senate, where support is narrower, before it reaches the House. "We wouldn't be surprised if there were attempts to amend the bill," he said.

Organized labor plans to mobilize workers in states where support is weakest among Democratic lawmakers, lobby lawmakers directly and get companies to support the bill to endorse it publicly. Labor leaders didn't name companies that are being targeted in this effort.

Business groups say they will intensify their lobbying against the bill as it is introduced. Randal Johnson, vice president of labor policy for the Chamber of Commerce, said the group will focus its heaviest lobbying efforts on senators in about seven states, and that an endorsement of the bill by a small number of companies "would not affect the political dynamic," because employer opposition to the bill is "overwhelming."

James,

The Obama Administration, Congress, and organized labor have a plan to fundamentally change the way XYZ Company operates.

Please attend an important meeting in your area to stop Employee Free Choice Act.

Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)

- ✓ *End Secret Ballots in Union Organizing Elections*
- ✓ *Government Arbitrators Impose Contracts*
- ✓ *Severe Penalties for Employers*

EFCA is bill H.R. 1409 and S. 560



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Stop EFCA or XYZ Co. could be changed forever!

JAMES,

The Employee Free Choice Act will be quickly debated in the U.S. Congress this year. It is the top priority of organized labor and could fundamentally change **XYZ Co.**

The bill ends secret ballots in union organizing elections, requires binding arbitration to establish workplace contracts and sets punitive penalties for employers. WMC is working as part of a national drive to stop EFCA. Now is the time to learn more, and take action.



Jon Levine

EDUCATE Nationally recognized labor lawyer Jon Levine will explain how EFCA could fundamentally affect **XYZ Co.** and the U.S. economy. A partner in Michael Best and Friedrich's Labor and Employment Practice Group, Mr. Levine specializes in representation of employers in employment litigation, collective bargaining, labor arbitration, union avoidance, and before the National Labor Relations Board.

ACTIVATE James Buchen, WMC Vice President of Government Relations, will explain how you and **XYZ Co.** can fight back to stop this overhaul of labor relations in our country. James, your representatives in Congress need to hear from you, your employees, and fellow business leaders.



James Buchen

Date & Locations

- April 2** 7:30 a.m., Green Bay, Radisson Hotel
- April 2** 10:30 a.m., Appleton, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
- April 2** 3 p.m., Pewaukee, Country Springs Hotel

For more information contact Janie Ritter at WMC, (608) 661-6930.

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