



September 30, 2004

To: The Honorable Steven LaTourette
The Honorable Peter King
The Honorable John McHugh
The Honorable Jack Quinn
The Honorable Christopher Smith
The Honorable Rob Simmons
The Honorable John Sweeney
The Honorable Rodney Alexander

Cc: House GOP Conference and Leadership

Our organizations wish to express our concern about your sponsorship of HR 3619, a bill which would deny workers a secret ballot on the question of union representation.

Sponsored by Congressman George Miller (D-CA), HR 3619 institutionalizes the corrupt and abusive practice known as "card check." Rather than having a secret ballot election administered by the National Labor Relations Board, card check allows a union to be organized when 50%-plus-one of all workers at a facility sign a kind of petition to do so.

While this may sound harmless on its surface, this practice has invited intimidation, bribery, and sometimes assault. When the sacred right to choose whether or not to have union representation is taken from the voting booth to the front door, rampant abuses can and have happened.

We would urge you to rescind your co-sponsorship of HR 3619 and any other current or future legislation which denies workers the right to a secret ballot.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Associated Builders and Contractors

Americans for Tax Reform

Grover Norquist, President

National Taxpayers Union

Paul Gessing, Director of Government Affairs

Small Business Survival Committee

Karen Kerrigan, President

American Conservative Union

Richard Lessner, Executive Director

American Shareholders' Association

Daniel Clifton, Executive Director

Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Thomas Schatz, President

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Randel Johnson, Vice President for Labor

Public Service Research Council

David Y. Denholm, President

Stop Union Political Abuse (SUPA)

Linda Chavez, President