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### **St. Tammany West Chamber opposes card check legislation**

Representatives of the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce were among the nearly 200 business and community leaders from Louisiana, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Nebraska that met this week with senators and representatives at Capitol Hill to adamantly oppose legislation that would effectively eliminate workers' right to a private ballot election in union organizing drives.

The misnamed "Employee Free Choice Act," commonly known as card check, would not only strip workers of a private vote, the bill would also grant government arbitrators new powers to dictate private sector wages and working conditions, and would impose one-sided penalties on employers, but not unions, for misconduct during union organizing efforts.

On the two day trip sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, St. Tammany West Chamber representatives met with Congressmen Charles Boustany, Steve Scalise, Joseph Cao, and Charles Melancon's designee, Senators David Vitter and Mary Landrieu, as well as a staff member of Senator Landrieu's Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship. Senators and representatives were urged to resist requests to co-sponsor the Employee Free Choice Act, vote against cloture on the bill and to not support any compromise that includes provisions to take away the secret ballot, impose binding arbitration, or put in place one-sided penalties only on employers.

This was the first in a series of U.S. Chamber fly-ins to bring small business owners and community leaders to Washington, D.C. to voice their opposition to the bill. As the "voice of business," the St. Tammany West Chamber will continue to correspond with our delegation in Washington to keep abreast of this issue. The chamber is working closely with other regional organizations on this issue, including Greater New Orleans, Inc., Northshore Business Council, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), and the River Region, Bossier City, and Shreveport Chambers of Commerce.

Please visit the U.S. Chamber's website at [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com) to find out more and to express your opinion on the Employee Free Choice Act.

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