



ALERT

NAA/NMHC AIMS Legislative Alert: Ask Congress to Oppose the Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 1409/S. 560)

APARTMENT INDUSTRY MOBILIZATION SERVICE (AIMS) URGENT ACTION REQUESTED

Background

The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), popularly known as the “card check” bill, should be rejected by Congress as an ill-conceived, lopsided proposal that would disproportionately increase the political might of unions at considerable cost to business and employees during a severe economic recession.

The EFCA would eliminate secret ballot elections and employee privacy, and impose intolerable burdens on the collective bargaining process by mandating mediation and binding arbitration. The apartment industry has not been a historical union target, but the EFCA would subject all industry sectors to unreasonable labor organizing rules and make all businesses vulnerable to coercive unionization tactics.

Some recent media reports have prematurely concluded that the EFCA is doomed for this Congress, but the outlook is uncertain. The bill will not pass without a 60-vote majority to overcome an expected Republican-led filibuster in the Senate. Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) recently joined Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), the only Republican to support consideration of the bill during the last Congress, by announcing her opposition to the bill in its current form.

Without Lincoln and Specter, Democrats, who hold 58 seats in the Senate, are short of the 60 votes needed. But the debate is far from over. Both Sen. Lincoln and Sen. Specter have said that they may support an amended version of the EFCA or an alternative labor reform proposal.

NAA/NMHC remain vigilant in our effort to educate members of Congress about the EFCA’s potential impacts. We urge Congress to oppose the EFCA and ask senators to filibuster the bill. Please write a letter to both of your senators as well as your representative in the House asking them to reject the EFCA.

Action Steps

1. You may write your own letter, or simply use the [sample](#), which is also available on the [NMHC Web site](#).
2. It is important to let your congressional representatives know about your firm’s specific connection to their district and/or state, so please personalize your letters by putting them on company letterhead.
3. Send a personalized letter to your representative in the House and to both of your senators via e-mail or fax. Please copy NAA/NMHC. A complete list of congressional e-mail addresses and fax numbers is available [here](#).
4. Please send a copy of your letter to NMHC/NAA’s Michele Cherry by fax (202/775-0112) or e-mail (mcherry@nmhc.org).

If you have questions, please contact Betsy Feigin Befus, NAA/NMHC's Vice President of Employment Policy, at 202/974-2339 or bbefus@nmhc.org.

NAA/NMHC Joint Legislative Program

National Apartment Association | 4300 Wilson Blvd., Suite 400 | Arlington, VA 22203
phone: 703-518-6141 | fax: 703-248-9440 | Feedback

You have received this e-mail as a benefit of your membership with the National Apartment Association.
[Opt-out](#) from this newsletter or [unsubscribe here](#) if you do not wish to receive further e-mails from the NAA.

