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March 31, 2009

Protect Arizona Workers Coalition
1850 North Central Avenue, Suite 1433
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Dear Friends:

My thanks to all of the member organizations of the Protect Arizona Workers Coalition for your letter of March 30, expressing opposition to the so-called Employee Free Choice Act (also known as the card-check bill). I share your concerns. You can count on me to vigorously oppose the legislation.

As pointed out by Thomas Sowell in a recent column for the *Washington Times*, "The problem for labor unions is that private-sector workers increasingly vote against being represented by unions," which is why, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, just over a tenth of such workers are currently members of labor unions, compared to about 20 percent a quarter century ago. Rather than find ways to become more relevant to today's workforce, unions are now seeking to change the rules of the game and deny workers the right to decide whether to unionize through the time-tested democratic process.

Card check is nothing short of an assault on the sanctity of the secret ballot, which offers the ultimate protection for workers by guaranteeing anonymity and protection against coercion. The *Arizona Republic* editorialized that the bill also "dramatically increase[s] the role of the federal government in arbitrating union contracts," and concludes that "it will constitute a crushing burden to the economy – just when businesses start crawling out of the shell hole of the recession."

With Senator Arlen Specter's announcement on March 24 that he will oppose the card-check bill, it now appears that Senators on my side of the aisle will be united in opposition and thus have sufficient numbers to block the passage of the card check bill. Nevertheless, it will be important for organizations, like yours, to remain vigilant against alternatives that may also erode the integrity of the secret ballot or pave the way for card check to pass in the future.

Thanks again for letting me know of your concerns. I'll look forward to continuing to work with you to block this dangerous legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Kyl", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

JON KYL
United States Senator

JK:CF