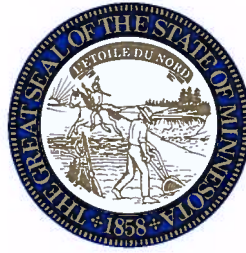


**Karla Bigham**  
State Representative

District 57A  
Cottage Grove, Newport,  
Grey Cloud Island, South Saint Paul,  
and Saint Paul Park



# Minnesota House of Representatives

**COMMITTEES:** PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE DIVISION  
STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE DIVISION  
VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CIVIL JUSTICE  
GAME, FISH AND FORESTRY DIVISION

December 14, 2009

Elizabeth Dougherty, Chair  
National Mediation Board  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 East  
Washington, D.C. 20005-7011

Dear Chair Dougherty:

I write to urge your approval of the proposed rule change to allow a union (under the Railway Labor Act) to be certified if a majority of those voting in a union election vote "yes."

Every other election in this country is decided based on the votes actually cast. By counting non-votes as "no" votes, the law arbitrarily assigns meaning to a voter who chooses not to participate. This is clearly not how our democratic society is meant to function.

I strongly encourage the National Mediation Board to approve this rule change so future union elections are conducted in a fair and democratic manner. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Karla Bigham  
State Representative

Cc: Mary Sansom  
Lisa Stager



**David J. Tomassoni, Chair**  
Economic Development Budget Division

Senator - District 5  
St. Louis County

DEC07'09 PM 4:33 AM



## Senate

State of Minnesota

December 2, 2009

National Mediation Board  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 East  
Washington, D.C. 20005-7011

RE: Docket Number C-6964

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to strongly support the National Mediation Board in their efforts to amend its Railway Labor Act rules as they relate to union representation elections to provide that, in representation disputes, a majority of valid ballots cast will determine the craft or class of representation.

The NMB is alone among governmental agencies in requiring an employee participation threshold in airline and railroad elections in order to win union representation. Under the current rule, if less than 50 percent plus 1 (50% + 1) of the eligible workforce participates in the election, a union will not be certified regardless of the percentage of votes it receives from participants.

Employees who do not vote, for whatever reason, are counted as "no votes" and union representative is lost regardless of the number of employees who actually voted in favor of union representation. Thus, airline and railroad management are rewarded for suppressing employees participation in a National Mediation Board election. This is unfair and stands in contrast to the rules applied in our democratic system in America's general elections wherein a majority of votes cast determine the outcome regardless of the number of voters that participated in the election.

Again, I urge that the National Mediation Board adopt this necessary rule change so as to provide a voting system that is fair to all working men and women.

Sincerely,



David J. Tomassoni  
State Senator

DT:lb



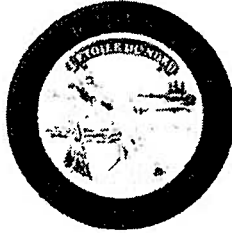
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317 State Capitol • Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606 • 651-296-8017 • Fax: 651-225-7579  
E-Mail: [sen.david.tomassoni@senate.mn](mailto:sen.david.tomassoni@senate.mn)



**Frank Hornstein**  
State Representative

District 60B  
Hennepin County



# Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT POLICY AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION (CHAIR)  
TRANSPORTATION FINANCE DIVISION  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS REFORM, TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTIONS  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION

December 2, 2009

National Mediation Board  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 East  
Washington, DC 20005-7011

Dear National Mediation Board Members:

I write today in support of the effort to amend the Railway Labor Act rules to provide that, in representation disputes, a majority of valid ballots cast will determine the craft or class of representation. The current system is unfavorable to union representation and therefore, anti-worker, and furthermore, by counting those who do not vote as a "no-vote" is undemocratic.

Throughout modern history, we have witnessed various union-busting tactics aimed at protecting profits rather than the hard working people who dedicate their lives to their jobs. The current practice through the Railway Labor Act is the antithesis of the democracy we work hard to protect and rewards voter suppression.

I am writing on behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO in support of their work to bring fairness and equal opportunity to ALL working men and women within the transportation industry.

I support the rule change and urge the National Mediation Board to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Hornstein".

Frank Hornstein  
State Representative



**Tom Anzelc**  
State Representative

District 3A  
Itasca, Koochiching and  
Lake of the Woods Counties



# Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES - COMMERCE AND LABOR  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE DIVISION  
K-12 FINANCE DIVISION

December 2, 2009

National Mediation Board  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 250 East  
Washington, DC 20005-7011

Dear National Mediation Board Members:

I write today in support of the effort to amend the Railway Labor Act rules to provide that, in representation disputes, a majority of valid ballots cast will determine the craft or class of representation. The current system is unfavorable to union representation and therefore, anti-worker, and furthermore, by counting those who do not vote as a "no-vote" by proxy is undemocratic.

Throughout modern history, we have witnessed various union-busting tactics aimed at protecting profits rather than the hard working people who dedicate their lives to their jobs. The current practice through the Railway Labor Act is the antithesis of the democracy we work hard to protect and rewards voter suppression.

I am writing on behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO in support of their work to bring fairness and equal opportunity to ALL working men and women within the transportation industry.

I support the rule change and urge the National Mediation Board to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Anzelc".

Tom Anzelc  
State Representative

