

October 20, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

The undersigned trade associations represent millions of employers in every size, sector, and region of the country. We are writing to urge you to oppose the nomination of Craig Becker to become a Member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). This letter is not intended to express an opinion about the nominations of Mark Pearce or Brian Hayes to serve as Members of the NLRB.

Mr. Becker has written prolifically about the National Labor Relations Act, the law he would be charged with interpreting and enforcing should he be confirmed. Many of the positions taken in his writings are well outside the mainstream and would disrupt years of established precedent and the delicate balance in current labor law. These positions have raised significant concerns in the employer community, for example, the extent to which he would restrictively interpret employers' free speech rights.

The public deserves an opportunity to hear from Mr. Becker directly as to whether he still believes in the positions espoused in his writings or whether his views on these issues have changed over time. A hearing would also provide an opportunity to learn to what extent Mr. Becker will seek to apply these views in his role on the NLRB. Nevertheless, it appears that the Committee does not intend to hold a hearing to fully vet these important concerns.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose the nomination of Craig Becker to become a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Sincerely,

Air Conditioning Contractors of America  
American Hotel and Lodging Association  
American Trucking Associations, Inc.  
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.  
Associated General Contractors of America  
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources  
Food Marketing Institute  
HR Policy Association  
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc  
International Foodservice Distributors Association

International Franchise Association  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Waterfront Employers  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Federation of Independent Business  
National Pest Management Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
National Retail Federation  
Printing Industries of America  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Society for Human Resource Management  
Steel Manufacturers Association  
United States Chamber of Commerce

Cc: The Members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions