

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

March 28, 2011

Subj: Amendment to Strike NMB Repeal provision
from FAA Bill (H.R. 658)

Dear Representative,

As the largest airline and rail union in North America, **the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers strongly urge you to vote "YES" to Representative Steven LaTourette's Amendment to strike Section 903 "Repeal of the NMB Rule" from the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011 (H.R. 658.)**

Last year, the process of voting under the Railway Labor Act was changed by the National Mediation Board ("NMB") to ensure the voice of everyone who wishes to convey their viewpoint is heard and fairly counted. Section 903 in the current FAA bill would overturn the NMB's new union voting rules for airline and railroad workers. Under the old NMB voting rules, any worker who did not vote in a union representation election was automatically counted as a vote against the union. In no other society do we require an absolute majority of all eligible voters to determine the outcome of an election and count those voters who do not vote in an election as "No" votes. If we applied the old NMB voting threshold to those running for office, thousands of elected federal, state and local officials would never hold public office.

The only question for you to consider is which process is the most fair to working people involved and impacted by union representational elections. We urge you to reject returning to a process in which the government imposes a viewpoint on its citizens. We hope you will support the process where each person has the opportunity to choose for themselves if they want to vote "yes" or vote "no" for a union, and those who abstain from voting for whatever reason do not influence the outcome of the election.

For further information, please contact Assistant Political and Legislative Director Hasan Solomon (301) 967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President