



March 01, 2011

VIA FAX

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

Re: Support fair elections for workers. Please support removing section 903 from the FAA reauthorization bill.

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW) and the members we represent in the air and rail industry, we urge you to support the fair and sensible secret-ballot election process for union workers by removing section 903 from the FAA reauthorization bill.

Last year the National Mediation Board (NMB) corrected a similar effort to weaken the democratic union election process for airline and rail workers. The old procedures required that a majority of all eligible workers at a facility vote to validate a union election. Any worker who didn't participate in such an election was tallied as a "no" vote. This election procedure was unique to any in the U.S. Had this same procedure been applied to the U.S. mid-term elections last year, the 112th Congress would look very different.

According to George Mason University, the total national ballots cast by eligible voters in the 2010 mid-term elections were close to 90.7 million or 41.6 percent of the voting population. If the method of election implied by section 903 were used for congressional elections, members of Congress who won seats in 2010 would not currently be seated as the majority of citizens failed to vote for any candidate.

Retaining fair elections for air and rail workers by removing section 903 from the House reauthorization bill would simply allow a majority of *voting employees* to choose whether they wish to vote for union representation or not.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

Legislative Department, 1150 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • 202-778-4384 • 202-293-5308 (Fax)

www.usw.org

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Fair elections are a cornerstone of our democratic republic. Section 903 would undermine the basic values we hold as citizens. Please commit to removing this section from the FAA reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly R. Hart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "H".

Holly R. Hart
Assistant to the International President
Legislative Director

HRH/ctl