

ERCCA

"Working Together Works Wonders"

East Hartford Chamber of Commerce
Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
North Central CT Chamber of Commerce
South Windsor Chamber of Commerce
Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

TESTIMONY
DENISE CARTER
EAST OF THE RIVER CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2009

The East of the River Chambers of Commerce Association (ERCCA) includes 3500 businesses from Glastonbury, East Hartford, Manchester, North Central Connecticut, South Windsor and Tolland County.

ERCCA opposes HB 6534, An Act Concerning Labor Union Authorization Card Checks, which requires that the state Labor Relations Board investigate any complaint that is filed. At this time, this proposal is limited in range; however we are concerned that this proposal is the foot in the door to a much more expansive card check measure.

Job losses have been tremendous and have caused losses in almost every industry sector. Furthermore, the health of those remaining jobs in Connecticut is very tenuous. And all indications are that this situation could get worse before it gets better. With unemployment levels at a record high (7.1% in December 2008) now is not the time to discourage businesses from remaining in or moving to Connecticut.

Congress established the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to ensure uniform application of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and to avoid conflicts that would result from a variety of local laws or procedures. Under the NLRA, employers are bound by strict guidelines to preserve the rights of employees to join unions, to bargain collectively with their employers, and to strike without fear of management reprisal. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was created to enforce this right and prohibit employers from committing unfair labor practices that might discourage organizing or prevent workers from negotiating a union contract. Passage of HB 6534 could have the negative effect of eventually undermining that authority.

Getting Connecticut out of this economic crisis will take rebuilding a healthy business climate and this measure will NOT do that but rather once again reinforcing that fact that Connecticut is not a business-friendly state.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the committee to REJECT HB 6534.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.