

Date: _____

Elizabeth Dougherty, Chairman
Harry Hoglander, Member
Linda Puchala, Member
National Mediation Board
1301 K Street, NW
Suite 250 East
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Proposed NMB Representation Rulemaking - Docket Number C-6964

Dear NMB Members,

I am writing to express my full support for this proposed change, and I commend the Board for taking action to ensure that all railroad and airline employees will, at last, be able to participate in a fair and democratic election process to determine the issue of collective bargaining representation.

As the TTD stated in their petition for this change, *“The current voting procedures are fundamentally unfair and encourage and reward employer-run voter suppression campaigns . . . Nowhere in American democracy - other than during a union election in the airline and railroad industry - does an eligible voter wishing to sit out an election have his or her silence tabulated as a NO vote by virtue of non-participation. Permitting such a veto-by-silence or inaction obviously sabotages the expressed will of the voting majority.”* It is inconceivable that anyone would presume to decide the will of a non-voter.

The current, antiquated, rules provide an unfair advantage to management. The corporate playbook is simple: hire union-busting consultants, run voter suppression campaigns that intimidate employees to keep turnout low and count on the NMB's outdated rules to help block unionization, by ensuring that all those who are unable or choose not to participate are counted as "no" votes.

The Board's current election procedure is contrary to the basic principles of democratic elections in this country, which hold that the winner of an election is the side that gets the most votes.

Please amend the current NMB rules in representational disputes to provide that a majority of valid ballots cast will determine the craft or class representative. A similar system for elections has been the cornerstone of American democracy for more than 200 years and will work just as well in airline and railroad union elections.

Respectfully,

Signature

Print First and Last Name

Position