



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative News

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3/06/09 – “Card Check” Bill Likely to Move Without Fanfare

In a closed-door meeting Tuesday, March 3rd President Obama told over 100 union leaders "we will pass the Employee Free Choice Act." It's now clear that Obama, big labor, and their allies in Congress, will attempt an unprecedented move that threatens long-held democratic values. The Employee Free Choice Act, or "Card Check," bill would eliminate the right to vote by private ballot when deciding whether to join a union, (something even the former Democrat presidential candidate George McGovern finds troubling and therefore he opposes enactment of the bill); and it would undermine the right to freely negotiate contracts (see CIRT's story on this matter dated 1/30/09 – “**Card Check**” **Bill Bombshell**). This is being done in a stealthy manner because its backers know that the bill will not pass if the American people understand its true nature and potential impact. In an attempt to “slow down” and/or block the union favored bill, Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) has introduced a counter measure (S.478) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board. [If your firm is interested in this matter, your office should contact your Senators and ask them to oppose the “Employee Free Choice Act” and instead support S.478].