



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative News

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9/16/09 – Card Check II Raises in Senate

A stripped down version of the “Card Check” legislation that has run up against stiff opposition is being floated in the Senate by newly minted Democrat Arlen Specter (D-PA). The “compromise” bill (“Card Check II”) would propose removing the highly objectionable provisions regarding elimination of secret ballots but retain other union favorable elements. While still a “work in progress” the new proposal would still require: faster secret ballot elections in organizing workplaces, tougher penalties, giving unions “equal” access to the workplace if the business holds mandatory meetings on unionizing elections, and the most important of all – arbitration when newly organized unions and employers can’t agree on a contract. Under the new arrangement: mediators will have more authority – which is why businesses have voiced as much opposition to this provision as the “card check” section in the original bill. With the government mediator holding a key role in negotiations – it is not difficult to imagine unions forcing an impasse in order to get their desired concessions from the mediator (*see related CIRT story on 01/30/09*). If you are interested in the outcome of this debate, [please contact your Senators](#) and urge them to oppose any bills that undermine the balance between labor and management (with or without a “card check” provision).