



417 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1902
717 255-3252 / 800 225-7224
FAX 717 255-3298
www.pachamber.org

June 22, 2009

The Honorable Arlen Specter
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

As you know, small business owners, employers and community leaders throughout Pennsylvania have expressed their strong opposition to S. 560, the Employee Free Choice Act, also known as Card Check. We applauded your public opposition to this bill earlier this year and we agree with your stated belief that the private ballot is a cornerstone of democracy and that binding arbitration costs jobs.

We are deeply concerned, however, about recent statements you have made regarding a potential compromise on S. 560. In particular, at a recent state Democratic Party event, you stated that organized labor would be "satisfied with my vote on this issue" meaning Card Check and further stated that you would work to provide labor "meaningful arbitration".

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and local chambers throughout our state, we would appreciate clarification of your statements. Did you mean that you would still pursue some means by which union organizers could circumvent the secret ballot? Are you intending to allow government-appointed arbitrators to dictate fundamental business decisions to Pennsylvania's employers?

Binding first contract arbitration is of particular concern to us. Not only would any form of forced arbitration undermine the collective bargaining process and potentially force an unworkable and unsustainable contract on employers, but it could also force healthy businesses into dramatically underfunded union pension funds.

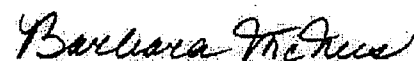
For example, the Western Pennsylvania Teamsters & Employers Pension Plan is funded at only 53.7%, according to the most recent data. SEIU Local 36's pension plan is funded at just 55.9%. And the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 23 pension plan is funded at only 56.1%. Under the Pension Protection Act, all of these plans would likely be in "critical" status. The sudden imposition of massive liabilities associated with these and many other union pension plans onto a company's books could easily force a business to close their doors. While current law requires retirement benefits to be a subject of negotiation, under free collective bargaining an employer always has the option of refusing to be drawn into a pension plan with rapidly deteriorating finances. This would no longer be the case with binding first contract arbitration.

Your announced opposition to S. 560 was warmly welcomed by the employers of Pennsylvania. Our concern, however, is that in pursuing a compromise, a new bill that only differs cosmetically may emerge. We urge you to continue standing firm against legislation that would have a devastating impact on jobs and the economy in our state.

Sincerely,



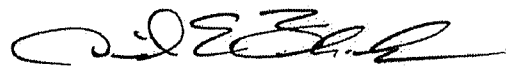
Floyd Warner
President
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business
and Industry



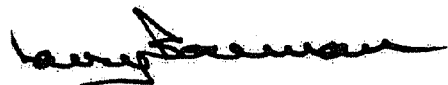
Barbara McNeese
President
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber
of Commerce



Paul J. Navarro, P.E.
President
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central
PA / Navarro & Wright Consulting



David E. Black
President and CEO
Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC




Larry A. Bowman, CCE
President and CEO
Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce

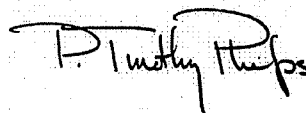
Sincerely,



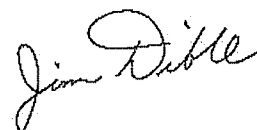
Mark S. Schweiker
President and CEO
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce




T. Anthony Iannelli
President and CEO
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of
Commerce



P. Timothy Phelps
President
TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce



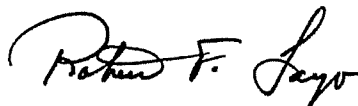
Jim Dible
President and CEO
Erie Regional Chamber and
Growth Partnership



Ellen T. Horan
President and CEO
Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce
and Industry



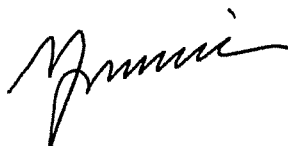
John Coleman
President and CEO
Chamber of Business and Industry of
Centre County



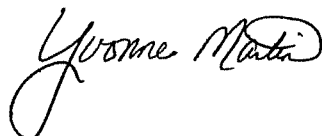
Robert F. Layo
President and CEO
Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chamber
of Commerce



Thomas T. Baldrige, C.C.E.
President
The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce
& Industry



Robert H. Jensenius
Executive Vice President
York County Chamber of Commerce



Yvonne Martin
Executive Director
Huntingdon County Chamber of
Commerce



R. Stanley Schuck
President
The Main Line Chamber of Commerce



Nancy Bullock Shonk
Executive Director
Mount Joy Chamber of Commerce
Commerce



Joe Hurd
Executive Director
Blair County Chamber of Commerce



Ron Aldom
Executive Director
Somerset County Chamber of
Commerce



Charlie Anderson
President and CEO
Meadville-Western Crawford County
Chamber of Commerce



Lee C. Taddonio
President
SMC Business Councils




Jeffrey G. Vermeulen
President
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce



David Sciamanna
President
Greater Chambersburg Chamber
of Commerce



Mary Margaret Fisher
Executive Director
Northern Allegheny County Chamber of
Commerce



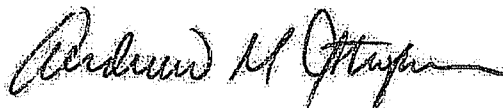
Edward Messner
President and CEO
West Shore Chamber of Commerce



Nancy J. Micks
President and CEO
Greater DuBois Chamber of Commerce



Nancy P. Keefer
President and CEO
Chester County Chamber of Business
and Industry



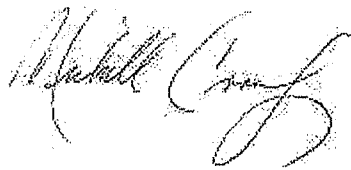
Andrew M. Stofan
President
Latrobe Area Chamber of Commerce



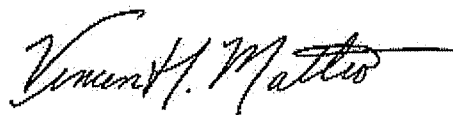
Chad M. Amond
President
Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce



Dana Henry
President
Indiana County Chamber of Commerce




Michelle Hornick Crowley
President and CAO
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce



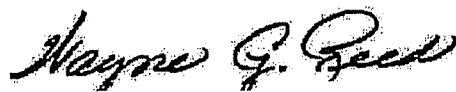
Vince Matteo
President and CEO
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of
Commerce




Ed Edwards
President
Columbia-Montour Chamber of
Commerce



Robert S. Johnston
President
Exton Region Chamber of Commerce



Wayne Reed
Government Affairs Committee Chair
Western Chester County Chamber
of Commerce



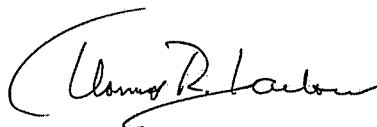
Diane Dornenburg
President and CEO
Beaver County Chamber of Commerce



Stan Kosciuszko
President
Butler County Chamber of Commerce



Elizabeth A. Graver
Executive Director
Pennridge Chamber of Commerce



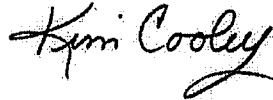
Thomas Harlow
President
Brush Valley Chamber of Commerce



Sally Haas
President and CEO
Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber
of Commerce




Donna Palermo
President
Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce



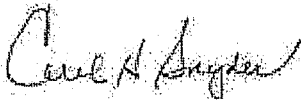
Kim Cooley, IOM
Executive Director
Phoenixville Regional Chamber of
Commerce



Susan Williams
Executive Director
Venango Area Chamber of Commerce



Jerry Schill
Executive Director
Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce



Carol Snyder
Executive Director
Bedford County Chamber of Commerce



Tracy Becker
Executive Director
Clarion Area Chamber of Business and
Industry



Clark L. Shuster
President
Lower Bucks County Chamber
of Commerce



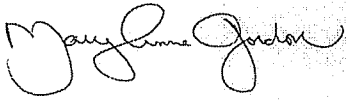
Gary Laird
President
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce



Robert S. Carl, Jr.
Executive Director
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce



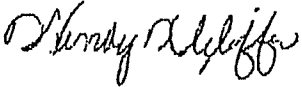
Carlene Willhide
Executive Director
Greater Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce



Mary-Anne Gordon
Executive Director
Mercersburg Area Chamber of Commerce



Wendy Ringenary
President
Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce



Wendy Klinghoffer
Executive Director
Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of
Commerce