

March 26, 2010

## **132 Members of Congress Sign Letter To President Obama Urging Recess Appointments To NLRB**

Contact: Helen Machado, 202-225-1766, Office of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Candice Johnson, CWA Communications, 202-434-1168, [cjohnson@cwa-union.org](mailto:cjohnson@cwa-union.org)

*Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard Leads Congressional Effort Urging Swift Appointments by the President to the National Labor Relations Board*

Washington, D.C. – Some 132 members of Congress signed a letter urging President Obama to use his legal authority to make recess appointments to install Mark Pearce and Craig Becker on the National Labor Relations Board.

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard spearheaded a congressional effort to bring about appointments by President Obama to the NLRB.

For nearly a year, the five-member NLRB has had just two members, creating a backlog of important cases that has left tens of thousands of workers with no recourse for justice. Senate Republicans have used holds and filibusters to block the confirmation of these nominations and most recently launched a filibuster to prevent a final vote on the nomination of Craig Becker.

Congresswoman Roybal-Allard stressed that “thousands of American workers who have sought resolution of their disputes have been put on hold, because of the NLRB’s gridlock. I urge the President to act, on behalf of workers who have been waiting months, if not years, for justice,” she said.

CWA President Larry Cohen said that “for too long, workers’ interests have been pushed aside when it comes to workplace justice. We need to end the gridlock, reduce the backlog and resolve the important cases that now are before the Board.”

“Pearce and Becker are both highly qualified, well respected labor lawyers. There is no reason that their nominations should not go forward, except for the obstructionist tactics of the Chamber of Commerce and their Senate allies,” Cohen said.

Cohen praised Congressman Roybal-Allard for focusing congressional attention on the critical need for a fully functioning NLRB.

Recess appointments have become a common way for presidents to seat nominees in the absence of a Senate vote. President George W. Bush made 171 recess appointments; President Bill Clinton made 139.

**Attachment:** Text of letter to President Obama,

Communications Workers of America Local 4250  
3055 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411  
Elizabeth R. VanDerWoude, President (708) 757-4065 (Office)  
[evp4250@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evp4250@sbcglobal.net) (E-Mail)  
<http://www.cwalocal4250.org> (Website)

March 26, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to exercise your legal authority to make recess appointments to install Craig Becker and Mark Pearce on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) during the Congressional recess that begins on March 29, 2010.

For far too long, the five-member NLRB has consisted of only two members - one Democratic appointee and one Republican appointee. This has resulted in a growing caseload of contentious issues left unresolved. Thousands of American workers who seek resolution of their disputes have been put on hold due to continued gridlock at the government agency charged with administering the National Labor Relations Act.

The Senate voted by a significant majority to allow the chamber to exercise its constitutional right to advise and consent on the merits of your nomination of Mr. Becker to serve on the NLRB. Unfortunately, the obstructionist tactics of a few have prevented the majority from confirming your choices for the NLRB. The consequences of an extended impasse are serious. Further inaction will increase the backlog of unresolved disputes, delay justice, and send the message to American workers that there is no referee in labor disputes.

As you are aware, there is precedent to use recess appointments to fill NLRB vacancies. President Bush filled seven out of the nine seats on the Board during his Administration using recess appointments. We urge you to use the same mechanism during the upcoming Congressional recess in the event the Senate once again fails to confirm your nominees before it adjourns.

**Attachment:** List of congressional signers

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard

Rep. Zoe Lofgren

Rep. Michael A. Arcuri

Rep. Paul Tonko

Rep. Lloyd Doggett

Rep. Robert A. Brady

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Rep. James A. Himes  
Rep. Joe Courtney  
Rep. Stephen F. Lynch  
Rep. Doris O. Matsui  
Rep. Charles A. Wilson  
Rep. Al Green  
Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Rep. Fortney Pete Stark  
Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez  
Rep. Timothy H. Bishop  
Rep. Donna F. Edwards  
Rep. Michael E. McMahon  
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly  
Rep. Michael F. Doyle  
Rep. Christopher S. Murphy  
Rep. Andre Carson  
Rep. John P. Sarbanes  
Rep. Phil Hare  
Rep. Brian Higgins  
Rep. James P. McGovern  
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan  
Rep. Kathleen A. Dahlkemper  
Rep. Steven Cohen

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Rep. Bruce L. Braley

Rep. Joe Sestak

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver

Rep. Yvette D. Clarke

Rep. Chellie Pingree

Rep. Lois Capps

Rep. John W. Olver

Rep. Loretta Sanchez

Rep. Keith Ellison

Rep. Sam Farr

Rep. Gary C. Peters

Rep. Rush D. Holt

Rep. John J. Hall

Rep. David Loebsack

Rep. Linda T. Sanchez

Rep. Sander M. Levin

Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy

Rep. Gwen Moore

Rep. Paul W. Hodes

Rep. Mike Quigley

Rep. Bill Foster

Rep. Peter Welch

Rep. Mark H. Schauer

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Rep. Raul M. Grijalva  
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Rep. John A. Boccieri  
Rep. Marcia L. Fudge  
Rep. Grace F. Napolitano  
Rep. Daniel B. Maffei  
Rep. Chris Van Hollen  
Rep. Russ Camahan  
Rep. Michael M. Honda  
Rep. Betty McCollum  
Rep. Daniel Lipinski  
Rep. Betty Sutton  
Rep. Timothy J. Walz  
Rep. Michael H. Michaud  
Rep. Laura Richardson  
Rep. Dennis Moore  
Rep. Anthony D. Weiner  
Rep. Dale E. Kildee  
Rep. Edward J. Markey  
Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz  
Rep. Peter A. DeFazio

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Rep. George Miller  
Rep. Henry A. Waxman  
Rep. Collin Peterson  
Rep. Howard L. Berman  
Rep. Carlos E. Serrano  
Rep. Edolphus Towns  
Rep. Elijah E. Cummings  
Rep. John F. Tierney  
Rep. James P. Moran  
Rep. Brad Sherman  
Rep. Gary L. Ackerman  
Rep. Joe Baca  
Rep. Barney Frank  
Rep. Lynn C. Woolsey  
Rep. Robert E. Andrews  
Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez  
Rep. Allan B. Mollohan  
Rep. Steven R. Rothman  
Rep. Melvin L. Watt  
Rep. Nick J. Rahall  
Rep. John D. Dingell

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Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy  
Rep. Ciro D. Rodriguez  
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings  
Rep. Charles B. Rangel  
Rep. James L. Oberstar  
Rep. William L. Owens  
Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky  
Rep. Gene Green  
Rep. Jane Harman  
Rep. Joseph Crowley  
Rep. Jerry F. Costello  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro  
Rep. Bobby L. Rush  
Rep. William Lacey Clay  
Rep. Judy Chu  
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.  
Rep. Bob Filner  
Rep. Diane E. Watson  
Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey  
Rep. Barbara Lee

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Rep. Tammy Baldwin

Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Rep. Steve Israel

Rep. John Garamendi

Rep. Ruben Hinojosa

Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Rep. Nydia M. Velasquez

Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter

Rep. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

Rep. Steve Kagen

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