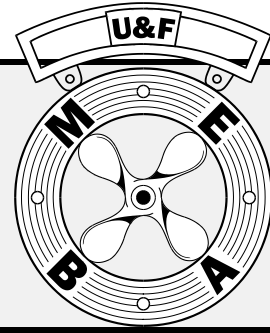


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AUGUST 2017



While the M.E.B.A. legislative team directs its focus on parochial maritime issues, it is important to keep track of broader labor issues that directly affect our members and set the tone in Washington.

In any year, you can find a number of bills that look to strip rights from union workers in favor of large companies. This year, anti-union Members of Congress appear to be particularly emboldened. Although there are others, 3 bills have recently been introduced that are especially troublesome.

H.R. 2723 “*Employee Rights Act*” restructures the entire legal framework surrounding union representation to make it nearly impossible for unions to win elections and would weaken their role in the political and legislative arenas. H.R. 2775 “*the Employee Privacy Protection Act*” would limit unions’ ability to contact employees. H.R. 2776 “*the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act*” establishes mandatory delays before an election can take place and allows employers to gerrymander the voting pool by adding voters who have expressed no interest in forming a union.

Though some of these proposals would not directly affect the M.E.B.A., they give a flavor of the current sentiment toward unions. As the legislative team works to advance maritime issues, there is a level of resistance that persists simply because we are a union-dominated industry.

Members are encouraged to contact their Members of Congress to express their concern with these bills and others that attack unions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the legislative team at Headquarters.