



**National Office**  
Raul Yzaguirre Building  
1126 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202.785.1670  
Fax: 202.776.1792  
www.nclr.org

Janet Murguía, President

February 28, 2007

Dear Representative:

I'm writing on behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., in support of H.R. 800, the "Employee Free Choice Act" (EFCA). This legislation, by providing workers with the freedom to choose to participate in a union and bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions, is important to strengthening the economic status of Hispanic Americans, who are overrepresented in the low-wage labor force.

There is growing evidence, including a recent study by the National Labor Relations Board, that under the current labor law system, employers often use a combination of legal and illegal methods to silence employees who attempt to form unions and bargain for better wages and working conditions. This evidence reflects the experience of Latinos in the labor force, who regularly report intimidation, harassment, and worse when organizing drives are taking place.

Consistent with our mission as a civil rights organization, NCLR believes that the ability to form a union is a civil right which is unfairly impeded by a severely flawed system which, though designed to protect workers, provides only minimal penalties to employers who violate the law. The ability to organize and bargain collectively for fair wages, benefits, and working conditions is essential if we are to advance the economic status of Latinos and their coworkers in the low-wage workforce.

I urge you to support this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Murguía". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet Murguía  
President and CEO

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LA RAZA: The Hispanic People of the New World