Passed 7-0-2 (Wisler, Sabbagh)

RESOLUTION 07-10

SUPPORTING THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

WHEREAS, the right to form or join a union is a fundamental right embedded in federal law and outlined in the international 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, despite this articulated right, current federal law does not adequately protect the rights of workers to organize nor does it adequately require employers to collectively bargain; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of workers who attempt to organize unions face substantial barriers and suffer harmful consequences, including unlawful termination, intimidation, and required attendance at company sponsored anti-union presentations; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council does not believe that this represents a free and fair process to determine whether or not a majority of workers support forming a union; and

WHEREAS, the ability to organize freely to bargain for better wages and benefits is essential to the health of citizens and the community; and

WHEREAS, unions benefit our community by strengthening living standards, stabilizing tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation; and

WHEREAS, union workers receive better wages and benefits and narrow the income gap for women and minorities; and

WHEREAS, States in which more people are union members are States with higher wages, better benefits and better schools; and

WHEREAS, when the right of workers to form a union is violated, wages fall, race and gender pay gaps widen, workplace discrimination increases and job safety standards disappear; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation entitled *Employee Free Choice Act*: ensures that when a majority of employees in a workplace decide to form a union they can do so fairly; provides for timely access to bargaining and dispute resolution mechanisms for first collective bargaining agreements; and provides for meaningful penalties for violations; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to ensure free and fair processes for unionization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Common Council urges the United States Congress to pass the *Employee Free Choice Act*.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, to the Indiana Congressional delegation and the President of the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 12th day of SEPTEMBER, 2007.

DAVE ROLLO, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 13TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2007.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution is co-sponsored by Councilmembers Rollo and Ruff. It recognizes as a fundamental right workers' ability to unionize, calls upon the United States Congress to pass the *Employee Free Choice Act* and directs the City Clerk to send copies of this resolution to the Indiana Congressional Delegation and the President of the United States.

Signed copies to:
Legal (10)
Controller
Emp. Svcs.
White River Central Labor Council
IBEW

CA/CA (3)
Clerk
FILE
Ind. Cong. Delegation (11)
President Bush