

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jacob Hay, LIUNA at (202) 942-2285, (202) 445-4788 or jhay@liuna.org

**Statement of Terry O'Sullivan,
General President of LIUNA
On the Corporate Version of the Employee Free Choice Act**

Washington, D.C. (March 23, 2009) – CEOs from Starbucks, Whole Foods and Costco released their version of the Employee Free Choice Act which grants only employers the right to decide how unions are formed and does not require employers to bargain in good faith for union contracts.

Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – made the following statement on their proposal:

The version of the Employee Free Choice Act put forth by CEOs does not fix the heart of the problem facing working families and our economy – the lack of the freedom of workers to choose to join a union to improve their lives. It would be more appropriately named the Corporate Free Choice Act.

Their proposal is simply a ploy to derail the steady advancement of the Employee Free Choice Act in Congress. The two biggest obstacles that working people face when trying to unite is a process that is controlled by employers and loopholes that allow employers to crush workers' unions by not fairly bargaining.

No version of this law can be considered a serious compromise unless it guarantees the that workers can join a union when a majority of them petition to do so, and that when workers do choose to join a union employers must negotiate in good faith or accept a contract determined by an independent arbitrator.

In a time of economic turmoil, America needs good jobs to get our economy back on track and rebuild the middle class. Only a real Employee Free Choice Act – not the corporate version – will allow workers to fight for good jobs and bring us closer to the promise of the American Dream.

###

The members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America. To learn more about LIUNA's Build America, so America Works - a long-term effort to make taking care of America's basics a national priority - go to www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org.