

## **Dockworkers to Call on Senator Feinstein to “Do the Right Thing” and Support Workers in their Fight to Survive**

*As Americans Face the Largest Economic Crisis since the Great Depression, Workers Press Feinstein to Support Them as They Fight to Lift Themselves up from Their Own Bootstraps*  
--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))-- **Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO:**

**What:** Dockworkers at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach will spend their lunch break this Friday calling U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, urging her to support the Employee Free Choice Act – federal legislation that would allow workers to earn better wages, health care and retirement benefits by signing a card to join a union. Senator Barbara Boxer is co-sponsoring the legislation and President Obama has indicated that he will sign it into law if it reaches his desk.

Dockworkers will also place phone calls to Mary Sammons, CEO of the Rite Aid drugstore chain, who has hired professional union-busting consultants to coordinate her company’s attack on more than 500 employees at the firm’s massive distribution center in Lancaster, CA. These workers are fighting to join a union so they can better provide for their families. The consultants have records of misconduct and labor law violations, according to documents obtained from the National Labor Relations Board, the federal agency charged with enforcing the nation’s workplace labor laws, which are now hopelessly outdated and unable to stop employer abuse.

In 2007, the federal government was prepared to charge Rite Aid with 49 labor law violations for threatening and firing employees at the Lancaster distribution center. Flaws in federal labor laws allowed the company to evade the violations with only a slap on the wrist and promise to behave in the future. The Employee Free Choice Act would also address these types of issues by imposing stricter penalties on companies who break the law against workers trying to join a union. The penalties now are so small, that it's just considered a part of doing business on behalf of the employer.

Congressman George Miller and Senator Tom Harkin introduced the Employee Free Choice Act in Congress on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**WHEN:** Friday, April 3rd @ noon (event will end at 1:00 pm)

**WHERE:** The docks at the Port of Los Angeles. Berth 87, located at 1<sup>st</sup> and Harbor in San Pedro, CA  
(Take 110 Freeway south, exit Harbor Blvd., bear right & follow signs to “Cruise Ship Terminal”)

**WHO:** Over 75 dockworkers along with workers from various industries

**VISUALS:** Tables and cell phones will be set-up to make a grassroots phone bank on the docks. Tables will also be set-up where workers will write letters to Senator Feinstein.

*The **Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO** is the chartered Central Labor Council (CLC) of the AFL-CIO in Los Angeles County and is the second largest in the country, representing over 800,000 workers through over 350 unions. Its mission is to promote a voice for workers so they can remain in the middle class, move themselves out of poverty by joining a union, encourage active participation in the political process by electing pro-union and pro-worker officials and to advance public policies that support workers and their families. As the coordinating center for labor’s political activity, the Federation believes that in educating and mobilizing workers to be politically active they can create and sustain healthy communities, and*

**FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS** that **REBUILD THE LOS ANGELES MIDDLE CLASS**. Visit the Federation at [www.launionafcio.org](http://www.launionafcio.org).  
The **International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)** unites more than 45,000 workers in over 60 local unions in the states of California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii. Visit the ILWU at [www.ilwu.org](http://www.ilwu.org)