

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
HOUSTON, TX 77002
(713) 655-3050

ACRES HOME OFFICE
6719 WEST MONTGOMERY, SUITE 204
HOUSTON, TX 77019
(713) 691-4887

HEIGHTS OFFICE:
420 WEST 19TH STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77008
(713) 861-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:
3300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 301
HOUSTON, TX 77020

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT (#43) JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT TO

H.R. 658 "FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT 2011"



MARCH 30, 2010

I want to thank Chairman Drier and Members of the House Rules Committee for this opportunity to explain my amendment, to H.R. 658, "FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act." I have offered amendment (#43), which enjoys strong bipartisan support as evidenced by the similar amendments offered by my dear colleagues Rep. James LaTourette and Rep. Jerry Costello (# 3), which seeks to achieve the same purpose.

Mr. Chairman, for the record, I want to express strong support for the LaTourette and Costello amendment (#3). Our amendments clearly demonstrate our strong opposition to section 903. The repeal of Section 903 will result in fair standards for aviation and rail employees' union elections, overseen by the National Mediation Board (NMB).

It is important to ensure that the proposed repeal of current NMB election standards does not advance and all elections in this nation remain fair and democratic.

Every eligible voter has the right to determine their own voting preferences. Choosing to abstain from a vote is not the same as choosing to vote no during an election. By counting eligible voters who choose to refrain from voting as the same as voters who actually cast a no vote, we would effectively determine the voting preferences for NMB voters. This would result in an unfair standard that is different from every other American election.

If Congressional elections proceeded under the proposed rule for the NMB elections, in which non-participants were counted as votes for the opponent, then none of the current Members of Congress would have won their elections in 2010. If the standard would be unfair for Members of Congress then it is certainly unfair for the NMB and should be repealed.

Unions should not be held at a different standard from every other American election. Don't hold union elections for aviation and real employees to a new and different standard. The proposed repeal of the current NMB elections standards must not advance to ensure that all elections in this nation remain fair and democratic.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment and the LaTorette/Costello amendment are essential to ensure NBM voters retain their full voting rights. For these reasons, I urge the Committee to make either amendment # 43 or amendment # 3 in order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 658
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

Page 259, strike line 21 and all that follows before line 3 on page 260 (and conform the table of contents accordingly).

