

Communications
Workers of America
AFL-CIO, CLC

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Larry Cohen
President

March 16, 2007

Mr. Jeffrey R. Immelt, Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer
General Electric Company
3135 Easton Turnpike
Fairfield, Connecticut 06431

Dear Mr. Immelt:

We were very disappointed with the coverage of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) by GE-owned CNBC during Larry Kudlow's show on February 26, 2007. The diatribe against EFCA by former General Electric CEO Jack Welch was not unexpected. After all, under Mr. Welch's tenure, GE perfected its union avoidance program to stifle the wishes of its workers to join a union.

But one would think that, given GE's corporate policy and history of union avoidance, the news programs your company oversees should be particularly careful to present balanced reporting on EFCA. Instead, there were no proponents of the legislation to debate or rebut Mr. Welch. Such rebuttal would have contradicted Mr. Kudlow's factual error about EFCA – EFCA requires a majority, not 30 percent to gain representation. Mr. Welch implied union activists would coerce members into signing, yet the reality is the converse, thousands of hard-working American workers are fired each year for trying to organize a union.

This one-sided treatment of a key piece of national legislation by GE is disturbing, especially in light of national bargaining upcoming this spring with the Coordinated Bargaining Committee of GE Unions. The entire CBC Steering Committee voted to send a strong note of protest over Mr. Welch's comments and their potential implications for our bargaining relationship. GE cannot point to itself as a company whose profits and growth have been stunted by having union contracts – in the U.S. or abroad. Though we have had our differences over the years, our impression is that, overall, IUE-CWA and GE have had a productive relationship.

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It is our hope, in contrast to former CEO Jack Welch, that you value the partnership with unions and employees at GE, and given the opportunity, will set the record straight about the new vision of GE. When you are asked about the Employee Free Choice Act, we hope that you clearly acknowledge that GE values the fact that workers have an independent voice on the job. For the record, we also can provide labor representatives who will speak to the benefits of the Employee Free Choice Act and provide television and radio audiences with the full story of this important legislation.

Debate is healthy, but a one-sided debate on a news program controlled by a company with a history of opposing union organizing campaigns is a disgrace. Please act quickly to correct this blemish on CNBC's reputation.

Fraternally,



Larry Cohen
President, CWA



James D. Clark
President, IUE-CWA
Chairman, CBC

c: CBC Steering Committee
CBC Local Unions