



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is James Sherk, and I am the Bradley Fellow in Labor Policy at the Heritage Foundation. I met Rian Wathen through a friend who worked for the Center for Union Facts and who recommended Rian as an expert speaker on union issues.

In early 2009 I decided to host an event at Heritage on the potential consequences of the Employee Free Choice Act and invited Mr. Wathen to speak. I found Rian Wathen to be an excellent communicator with an engaging presentation style. Labor policy can at times be dry, but Mr. Wathen kept the audience's attention throughout.

Mr. Wathen's firsthand experience gave his presentation the credibility we wanted. I could not have shot those videos myself because I have no firsthand experience as a union organizer. However, Mr. Wathen has worked in the trenches and it shows.

Rian Wathen is very knowledgeable about unions and how they operate. He had many valuable insights into union organizing in a post card-check world that I had not considered before – so many so that I used the transcript of his remarks as the basis for a new paper. When I speak about card-check to Congressional staff or the press I still use as examples several of the anecdotes he used.

After meeting Mr. Wathen I decided to shoot a separate interview of him for a series of Web Videos about the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). We distributed those videos on You Tube and through other online channels and they have been viewed tens of thousands of times.

Overall I was highly impressed by his presentation. So was the Congressional staff in the audience. Months after he had spoken I repeatedly heard staff from multiple Senate offices comment on how insightful his remarks were, what a great speaker he was, and how they should invite him as a minority-party witness to testify at potential hearings on the EFCA (The majority opted not to hold those hearings). I could not have been more pleased with how inviting him to speak turned out. If I can answer any questions about my experience working with Mr. Wathen, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

James Sherk
Bradley Fellow in Labor Policy
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-608-6177
heritage.org