



NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20572

(202) 692-5000

36 NMB No. 53

September 22, 2009

NOTICE

TO: All Carriers and Labor Organizations

FROM: Mary L. Johnson, General Counsel *mjl*

RE: Comment Period re: Board's Policy on use of Hyperlinks to its Voting Website

Effective October 1, 2007, the National Mediation Board (NMB or Board) began primarily conducting representation elections using both Telephone Electronic Voting (TEV) and Internet Voting. *Internet Voting Comment Period*, 34 NMB 200 (2007). Internet Voting was implemented after months of research and testing, and is both secure and encrypted.

In February of 2008, the Board decided to remove the hyperlink to the voting website from its website at <http://www.nmb.gov>, and instead instructed voters to type in the Internet address (URL)* to access the voting website at <https://www.ballotpoint.com/NMB/>. *Removal of Internet Voting Hyperlink on Board's Website*, 35 NMB 92 (2008). As a further safeguard, the Board additionally requested its participants not to post a hyperlink to the Board's voting website, and cautioned that "the Board may consider hyperlinks to the voting website as possible evidence of election interference." *Id.*

On July 22, 2009, the Board received a request for reconsideration on this issue from the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA. The Board is now soliciting comments from its participants on whether hyperlinks to the voting website should be permitted.

The Board will accept comments on this issue through **October 22, 2009**. Please direct comments of no more than five (5) single-spaced pages to

* URL or Uniform Resource Locator is the address of the website in text rather than a hyperlink.

Mary L. Johnson, General Counsel, at legal@nmb.gov or fax comments to 202-692-5085. The Board will evaluate all written comments; however, no extensions to the comment period will be granted.