

# Kenny Tucker

**Truck Driver**

**Quickway Carriers in Landover, MD**

**Congressional Press Conference on the Employee Free Choice Act**

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We started the process to bring the union in around May of 2006. This decision was made after changes started occurring that were different from what management originally stated. The company promised things that they either took back or just never gave to us at all. When we approached management about the changes, they replied, "Nothing was written in stone therefore policies and procedures could change at will."

It has been a rough process. The company's current regional vice president said he would never sign a union contract. Once the company began to hear talk of a union being formed, they immediately began to engage in unfair labor practices. One of the reasons that we were forced to strike was because of the company's unjustly firing one of my coworkers, and the unfair treatment that we were subjected to.

We've been out on strike for more than six weeks over unfair labor charges. The company has hired scabs. One of their scabs intentionally struck me on the picket line with his tractor-trailer. I was transported from the scene of the accident to the Prince George's County ER where I was treated for minor injuries. The driver that committed this crime was contracted from their Virginia terminal; therefore he is not being held accountable for his actions.

I was one of four people who started building our union. Within three days, 21 of 26 guys had signed cards saying that they wanted to join the Teamsters. Soon after the company learned of the intervention, they began targeting certain drivers by intimidating them, using video surveillance, and giving them literature to oppose the union. They said many times that they would close our facility if we chose to unionize.

The safety director videotaped Angelo Jackson and I. Angelo is one of the guys who helped in the process to bring in the union -- during work hours. We found out it is illegal to videotape someone without their permission.

They fired Angelo for supposedly stealing time -- we don't get paid hourly, we get paid by stops and mileage, therefore how could he be stealing time? They made sure I was present to witness Angelo's termination.

The company brought guys in who had one-on-one meetings, showed anti-union videos, and said a union wasn't good. None ran scared. We voted and won by an overwhelming margin for Teamsters Local union 639 to become our collective bargaining agent on July 20.

We started negotiating with the company for our first contract. After a few meetings, we hit a wall. What we were looking for wasn't unreasonable. We wanted fair health insurance, a pension and what was originally promised: to be paid by a salary, sick leave and holiday pay.

We were originally paid by stops and miles, then they changed us to salary. When the company realized that the salary pay was benefiting us, they changed it back. We were promised sick leave but have yet to see it.

It's frustrating that the system allows employers to prolong the process and find ways to take away workers' rights. Their unlawful acts were committed without fear of punishment or remorse for humanity. I want people to know how these major corporations especially in the trucking industry; treat essential employees that help them build and maintain their million dollar companies.

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act would revamp the system by restoring our rights. EFCA would level the playing field. Employers who violate labor laws would face harsher penalties. Also, EFCA would set up a way to negotiate a first contract in a timely manner for newly organized workers, as in the case with my coworkers and myself. EFCA would give us ordinary hard working Americans a renewed sense of hope and a fair chance in becoming productive members of society. I am a firm believer that working families desperately need the Employee Free Choice Act.