July 11, 2017

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), I urge the Senate to quickly confirm Marvin Kaplan and William Emanuel to serve on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Emanuel are both extremely qualified to serve as members of the Board and have the expertise to ensure the Board remains true to its mission of enforcing the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and serving as a neutral arbiter of labor law.

The Independent Electrical Contractors is an association of over 50 affiliates and training centers, representing over 2,100 electrical contractors nationwide. While IEC membership includes many of the top 20 largest firms in the country, most of our members are considered small businesses. Our purpose is to establish a competitive environment for the merit shop—a philosophy that promotes free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all. In addition, IEC and its training centers conduct apprenticeship training programs under standards approved by the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship. Collectively, IEC trains more than 10,000 electrical apprentices annually.

Mr. Kaplan, counsel to the commissioner of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, and Mr. Emanuel, a shareholder at the law firm Littler Mendelson PC in Los Angeles, are experts in the field of labor relations. Together they have decades of experience interpreting the NLRA in a manner that is balanced and without favor to political party.

Over the last eight years, the NLRB has overturned an astounding 4,559 years’ worth of longstanding precedent, blurred numerous bright-line tests, and dramatically overhauled the union election process—all in an effort to tilt the scales in favor of organized labor. The Board embarked upon this campaign with little regard as to the negative impact these policy decisions would have on workers, employers and the economy in general. Despite the employer community’s efforts to demonstrate these negative effects and caution the Board of these consequences, the NLRB continued pursuing its radical agenda at the expense of worker and employer rights and our economy.

IEC applauds President Trump for his choices to serve as the next members of the NLRB. Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Emanuel will interpret the NLRA in a manner that is fair to workers, unions and employers alike, restoring much needed balance to the agency. They will help to return the Board to its traditional role as a neutral arbiter of labor disputes and will create a climate for economic growth by freeing employers from the unnecessary red-tape and uncertainty associated with recent Board activities.

IEC urges the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to approve the nominees promptly following a hearing, so the Senate may confirm them and the NLRB can return to fulfilling its statutory mission.

Sincerely,

Jason E. Todd
Vice President, Independent Electrical Contractors

cc: Members of the Senate HELP Committee