



Thursday, March 5, 2009

Biden To Speak At AFL-CIO Meeting In Miami Beach

Biden Will Also Visit The Miami Intermodal Center

By Lisa Cilli

South Florida will be a center of attention Thursday as Vice President Joe Biden travels to Miami and Miami Beach to address one of the nation's largest union groups as Congress is considering the heavily union-supported Employee Free Choice Act.

Biden will address the AFL-CIO Executive Council at the Fontainebleau Hotel on Miami Beach.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting and newly appointed Labor Secretary Hilda Solis are both in Miami drumming up support for the bill that would give workers the option of unionizing by getting a majority of the workers to sign cards or a petition instead of holding secret ballot elections.

Biden will speak to them Thursday morning at 11:00 a.m. to reiterate the White House position that a strong middle class needs a strong labor movement.

When Biden is done at the Fontainebleau, he'll head to the Miami Intermodal Center, a transportation project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He'll be joined by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Miami Mayor Manny Diaz. The Miami Intermodal Center construction site, located at 3845 NW 25th Street, is just one example of the hundreds of transportation construction projects across the country receiving funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to immediately improve our transportation infrastructure and to ensure that our transportation system is equipped for the 21st century - and to put people back to work. The Miami Intermodal Center is a system that makes connections between all modes of transportation: airlines, transit buses, subways, commuter rail, intercity rail, airport shuttles, regional bus lines, and intercity bus service.

The Vice President will also visit Miami Police on Friday. He will be joined once again by Miami Mayor Manny Diaz as well as Miami Chief of Police John Timoney. The Recovery Act will invest more than \$4 billion for state and local law enforcement and other criminal and juvenile justice activities. The Vice President will discuss funding in the Recovery Act specifically for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds, which will help keep police officers on the street, protecting our communities and our families.