

Letter from Gary Walkowicz, "A" Crew Bargaining Committeeman
-- to the membership of the Dearborn Truck Plant.

Ever since Plant Chairman Nick Kottalis signed a letter calling for a "No" vote on this contract, he has been under attack by Local 600 and the International Union. Within 2 days after the letter, they removed his "C" Crew Health and Safety rep and put in their own person. Nick was also told by the International Union he could no longer use Melvin Lofton as an alternate Health and Safety rep. (Melvin also signed the letter).

Any plant chairman – in this plant and every other plant – has always had the right to make his own selections for these jobs. But all that changed when Nick spoke out against concessions. It is clear to me that they are attacking Nick because of the stand he took.

As many of you know, I disagreed with Nick over the last concession contract in March. I opposed those concessions and he supported them. I think he was wrong last time. But I applaud the stand that he took this time. He has chosen to speak up at a time when many others in the union leadership are either going along with a Yes vote, or just staying quiet.

As elected union representatives, we are supposed to speak for the membership. When those of us in office signed that letter for a "No"Vote, we were also speaking for the people in the plant who have told us loud and clear, "No More Concessions!"

We need to remind the top union leadership that they are supposed to be working for the membership, not against us.

When Nick is attacked by the Local and the International for speaking out, they are also attacking the membership who he is speaking for.

Gary Walkowicz