

Let's face it: Our reliance on vehicles burning fossil fuels contributes to the planet's rising temperature. Cars and trucks, among other sources, are emitting more carbon dioxide than the earth can absorb. The peak "safe" level is 350 parts of carbon dioxide (and methane) per million, but today's count is *already* at 389 parts per million and rising.

We read about glaciers and ice caps melting, rising sea levels, horrendous floods in Pakistan and record temperatures (and fires) in Russia. All are part of extreme weather patterns linked to the warming of the earth. Global warming is not "natural" but a direct result — like our disastrous economy — of longstanding policies.

UNITY IS KEY — The growing climate crisis, if left unchecked, will force people to emigrate from regions that no longer sustain life to areas that do. The floods in Pakistan have displaced more than 20 million people, destroying their agriculture and infrastructure in the process. Where will they go? The impact of the floods is not unlike NAFTA's impact on Mexico's economy in our hemisphere — driving millions from their homes and communities.

The strategy of the corporate elite — who are responsible for both disasters — is to pit people living in more sustainable environments or economies against those who face more dire circumstances. Both justice and strategic thinking require that all workers — whether citizens or undocumented immigrants — fight back together. In the process, we can defeat hate-filled campaigns pushed by the Tea Party types. Justice also demands that we as autoworkers reject every act designed to intimidate and divide us, as we recently experienced with the display of a noose — the symbol of lynching — at Ford's Woodhaven stamping plant.

STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION — We see the recently announced plans for a new light rail line

along Woodward (from Jefferson to Eight Mile) as a step in the right direction toward an integrated, regional public transportation system. But where will the light transit rail cars be built — in a low-wage country or by a low-wage (non-union) U.S. company? We insist that the rail cars and buses for such a system be built here, by union labor at union pay scales.

As autoworkers, *we reject the corporate line that we should be willing to work for near poverty-level wages in order to keep our jobs and make the bosses rich.* That's the fight 650 GM Metal Fab workers (members of UAW Local 23) in Indianapolis are currently waging as GM tries to sell their plant to a company in business for only six years. Although the workers rejected demands by the prospective buyer for 50% cuts across the board, UAW Region 3 officials negotiated the cuts anyway! And still the workers said NO! They also know if they give in, it will just be a matter of time before other UAW-GM Metal Fab workers face the same fate.

By commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic 1963 march down Woodward, we are affirming his steadfast opposition to the war of his time — Vietnam (in 1967) — and his willingness to support workers, as he supported the Memphis Sanitation Workers in their struggle for justice and dignity in 1968. Today we march in the streets for the things he fought for — jobs, justice and peace. He took action for justice inside the workplace, in the community, and across the seas. We need union leaders who will do the same.

It's only through solidarity that we can hope to build the momentum in our fight against the corporate elite for *good* jobs, real justice and lasting peace. Today such a movement needs to encompass a broad and determined effort to reverse the warming of the planet. Let's join together to fight for the conversion of idled plants and the rehiring of the region's workers for the manufacturing of products — like the light rail system — which the earth can sustain and we can really use.

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Autoworkers Caravan

<http://www.autoworkercaravan.com/>

Factoryrats Unite!

<http://www.factoryrat.com/factoryrat/index.php>

Supporters of Gary Walkowicz

Warriors of Labor

<http://www.warriorsoflabor.com/>

Join us on Sunday, September 26, for a picnic and discussion in the Flint area, 1700 Peet Road, New Lothrop MI 48460. Bring a dish to pass.

For more information please call Stacey Kemp, 810-639-4672 or email Wendy Thompson at Wthomp4490@aol.com.