

UAW CAW SOS

The following is a message of solidarity from our Ford UAW Brothers and Sisters I would have liked to have had the opportunity to have read out at the 2009 ratification vote for our members to hear:

Brothers and sisters of the CAW- Ford,

UAW-Ford workers in the U.S. are overwhelmingly voting down a concession contract. Although final results will not be announced until Monday, at this point the contract is being voted down by about 75% with only a few plants left to vote. Some plants, like Dearborn Truck, Kansas City Assembly, Woodhaven Stamping and Sandusky have voted over 90% "No". Sheldon Road, Walton Hills, Chicago Stamping and Kentucky Truck/Louisville Assembly have voted over 80% "No".

This contract is being voted down because UAW-Ford workers are saying, "Enough is Enough". We have given up concession after concession, and yet Ford came back for more. Well, we have sent Ford a loud and clear message – "No More concessions".

They told us, as they are telling you, that we had to follow pattern bargaining to match the concessions at GM and Chrysler. Well, why do we have to follow pattern bargaining to the lowest level. Why can't we, as Ford workers, hold to a higher pattern and help bring the GM and Chrysler workers up to our level?

We hope that our union brothers and sisters in Canada feel the same as we do. You have all our support.

In solidarity

Gary Walkowicz, Bargaining Committeeman, Dearborn Truck Plant, UAW Local 600, October 31, 2009

Myself and other CAW members have been working actively with UAW members fighting against concessions and building international solidarity. These are key to our survival.

We achieved a historical FORD rejection vote in the fall of 2009 for the first time in UAW history, recently the former Delphi/now GM again workers rejected concessions and here in Canada CAMI concessions passed with a mere 60% acceptance. Fighting back indeed makes a difference.

What won the recent Delphi/GM rejection was the fact that the workers at the plant in Grand Rapids were picked to lead whipsawing the workers because the plant had the highest % of new workers hired in 2006. Many of these '06-ers were hired from Bosch, Lear, Delphi and Towers plants because of their experience. Those plants were all sold or closed after workers made concessions. Those workers voted NO to say "been there, done that, won't be fooled again".

Solidarity for all Ford workers.

Solidarity for all autoworkers.

VOTE LINDSAY HINSHELWOOD VICE PRESIDENT