

December 8, 2010

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the families, employees, and community supporters of United Steel Workers Local 7-669 of Metropolis, Illinois respectively ask for your immediate attention in regards to Mr. Dave Cote locking out 230 union workers at the Honeywell Metropolis, Illinois Plant on June 28, 2010. This plant is the only uranium conversion facility in the United States. Its product, uranium hexafluoride, is known in the industry as the most pure in the world.

Mr. Cote currently has served as a member of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. Since his appointment to this committee, he has continuously demonstrated a pattern of selfishness and corporate greed by trying to take away employee's insurance and retirement plans. In a recent news release, Honeywell announced its plans to make a \$600 million cash contribution to its pension account. That is in addition to the \$400 million stock contribution it made earlier this year. How can we not be outraged about these numbers? Although Honeywell continues to post profits of millions of dollars each quarter, Mr. Cote continues to insist on taking away insurance and retirement benefits from the hard-working, dedicated, middle-class people in which you, Mr. Obama, have vowed to stand up for.

By choosing to lock out the 230 union workers at the Metropolis site, Mr. Cote chose to add to the unemployment rate for the State of Illinois, which is currently 14.9%. Isn't the goal of all Americans to help the unemployment rate to decrease? If it is not obvious enough, Honeywell and Mr. Cote continue to brag about how well-off both the company and Mr. Cote are doing financially. Any business section of major newspapers or financial report of Honeywell will tell pages upon pages of how well off and successful Honeywell is--not just this year but in past years as well. Therefore, we do not believe for a minute that Honeywell and Mr. Cote are enduring hard times because of the economic downturn and troubles with the economy. The fact is, Mr. Cote had no concern for his employees and fellow Americans when he chose to lock them out of their jobs on June 28, 2010.

Honeywell claims the Metropolis facility is on track to lose millions of dollars this year. Let us inform you where those millions of dollars are being spent. Instead of the company being out \$20 million over three years to maintain the current health and retirement benefits, Honeywell and Mr. Cote have chosen to blow more than \$60 million in a matter of months. That's right. It has cost Honeywell almost \$60 million to keep

the workers locked out of the facility. Where did all this money go? That money has been spent on contracting scab labor; expenses to house, feed, provide special transportation, and additional security for scab workers; and paying management employees overtime pay to work extra hours. And that's not all. In addition, Honeywell-Metropolis' plant manager confirmed that the site has lost \$2 million dollars per week for the first eleven weeks of the lock out--\$22 million more!

In addition to the items mentioned above, there are more concerns at hand.

- **Safety** – This is a major issue by having uneducated, untrained replacement workers handling hazardous materials. It not only affects the employees, but also endangers the men, women and children who live in the surrounding area.
- **Homeland Security** – How safe are we, again, with uneducated, untrained replacement workers doing the jobs of men and women who have been educated and trained in knowing whom and what to look for in suspicious situations.
- **Healthcare** – Taking away healthcare to those employees whom have retired and will retire is unfair and inhumane. There have been workers diagnosed with cancer after working 20 or more years at the plant and the cost of treatment all but depletes their retirement savings.
- **Family Cost** – Families are paying a huge price because of the situation they have been forced into. The money that our employees are losing greatly affects the entire family. Mortgages are falling behind and in worse case situations, husbands and wives are separating due to financial difficulties and tensions. Children are realizing that the company will not allow their parent(s) to work and that they may have to give up things like getting new school clothes, extra-curricular school activities, and even not have any Christmas presents to open.
- **Local Business Cost**- Without their jobs, the workers are unable to give back to their community by spending money in local businesses such as groceries, gas stations, restaurants, and hardware stores. It has resulted in local layoffs
- **Education Cost** – Employees with children in college still have the burden of paying for their child's educational expenses.

The devoted men and women who work at the Metropolis facility come from a small, extremely close-knit community. Generation after generation of loyal, trustworthy, and reliable employees have worked long, hard hours to guarantee the success of this facility. However, no matter how dedicated they are or how hard they work or how much heart they put into their jobs, they are thrown out on the streets to make it on their own. They aren't being treated like people, they are being treated like just another number! No jobs, no paychecks, and NO RESPECT!

As you are a former Senator and Resident of the State of Illinois, the workers and families of Honeywell Metropolis would appreciate your input into this situation. We know you will do all that you can to help us come to a timely and fair conclusion in this matter. Thank you again for both your time and attention.

Sincerely,