

# PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATION

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February 2, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's time for us to take action!

Local Union President's of the UAW Freightliner Council and UAW Region 8 Staff are coordinating a plan to help keep our jobs here in NC.

Our plan is to generate a Grassroots campaign for our Federal and State Elected Representatives so that they are aware of the job losses at our UAW Represented Freightliner facilities in NC. The job losses are NAFTA and economy driven. Our action plans include face to face meetings and a petition drive outlining the seriousness of the job losses.

**What our members and union officers in can do:** Sign and get the petition out to other workers in the plant and community for everyone to sign and return. We will really need to count on the district committeepersons to help workers get their voice heard by getting these petitions signed and turned in.

Some believe that the UAW should not be involved in politics. I think it is quite evident what politicians vote for or against directly affect us. Therefore we must be involved. With the layoffs of thousands right here at our workplace it is obvious we must do something, anything we can. Past UAW President Walter Reuther stated "There's a direct relationship between the bread box and the ballot box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls." We feel that in our plants is case in point, NAFTA, it does not help working people.

NAFTA doesn't work for the working people right here in NC. In my opinion NAFTA allows Multinational corporations to pay workers below the federal minimum wage of \$6.55 an hour by paying Mexican workers \$2 an hour. Isn't it OK for workers here to make \$8, \$14, \$23 an hour? Is that greed? Isn't OK to try to make a living to support our family? Some say the unions are "greedy" and their high wages are forcing companies to go to Mexico. NAFTA provides companies the ability to go to Mexico and pay workers \$2.00 an hour. We cannot compete with that unless we ask our elected officials pass a law to lower our minimum wage to \$1.50 an hour. I am not greedy; I just cannot support my family on that wage. I choose to do the alternative- help stop NAFTA.

In Solidarity,

George Drexel