



MINNESOTA
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A STRONG, UNITED VOICE FOR
MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE



November 7, 2011

David Freiboth, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council
2800 First Ave., Suite 206
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Labor Leader:

1,300 BCTGM workers at American Crystal Sugar facilities in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Iowa have been locked out of their jobs since August 1st. The company is attempting to extract concessions from union workers that would allow outsourcing of jobs, uncertainty in health care costs, and elimination of seniority to name a few.

Despite repeated attempts by the union to end the lockout and resume negotiations, American Crystal Sugar remains unmoved in its demands. The company has brought in Minnetonka, MN-based Strom Engineering for replacement workers and other consulting services.

If American Crystal Sugar prevails, it is likely that many more companies will use this lockout tactic in future labor negotiations. This is an opportunity to make a stand against these tactics.

That's why the Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa AFL-CIO, in conjunction with the BCTGM, are launching a full-scale, national corporate campaign against American Crystal Sugar. The campaign includes the hiring of full-time staff for organizing, mobilization, and research, along with an aggressive paid media campaign.

It is our goal to leverage public pressure on American Crystal executives and the nearly 3,000 beet growers who own the company to bring about a successful end to the lockout.

However, a campaign of this magnitude takes resources. We estimate that an effective 30-day campaign will cost more than \$160,000. We have raised approximately one half of the funds necessary to fully activate the corporate campaign. Any financial support your union can provide to this campaign would be appreciated and well-invested.

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If you can contribute, please send a check payable to the Minnesota AFL-CIO:
Minnesota AFL-CIO
175 Aurora Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

(Please write BCTGM Action Fund in the memo line)

There is a lot riding on the outcome of the lockout. If workers prevail in this dispute, it will show other companies that a lockout is an ineffective tactic.

Additionally, locked out BCTGM members are available to come out to your next meeting or event for a fundraiser you would sponsor. To learn more about this Sugar Beet Ambassador program, contact Jessie McGregor at jmcgregor@aflcio.org or call 651-665-9196.

If you have additional questions about this campaign, don't hesitate to contact us.

In Solidarity,



Shar Knutson
Minnesota AFL-CIO President



Gary Granzotto
North Dakota AFL-CIO President



Ken Sagar
Iowa AFL-CIO President

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