

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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September 17, 2009

Mr. Leo Gerard, International President
United Steelworkers
5 Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Leo:

On behalf of the 11 million members and 57 affiliated national and international unions of the AFL-CIO, we offer our full support for and solidarity with the United Steelworkers (USW) in your struggle at Vale. We regret that our schedules do not permit us to deliver this message in person.

We are appalled to learn that Vale is engaging in grave worker and community abuses in Canada. We cannot stand for this, and we want to congratulate the USW for taking the right response by striking Vale and withholding Steelworker labor until this company makes a fair and equitable contract offer. Your fight will not only benefit USW members striking Vale. It will benefit all workers at Vale, and workers throughout the mining industry and beyond. Other multinational corporations throughout the world are watching what is happening in Sudbury, and together we can show them how labor can fight back when we are united.

We are aware that the USW has worked very closely with unions in Brazil, including unions at Vale. It is through this sort of international solidarity that we can take on global giants like Vale.

The AFL-CIO stands in full support for and solidarity with United Steelworkers in its struggle for justice at Vale. We look forward to being personally involved in offering the AFL-CIO's support to you in this strike.

In solidarity,



Richard L. Trumka
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