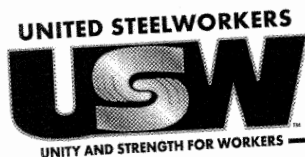


# Workers at Corning have an important message for us:

*“Corning is an important customer that depends on quality products from U.S. Borax/Rio Tinto, so your customer updates are extremely valuable.”*

*We are concerned about the way that U.S. Borax/Rio Tinto is treating you.*

*Rio Tinto’s demand for outrageous concessions is unconscionable in light of their reported earnings of \$3.7 billion in 2008, with even greater profits likely in 2009.”*



December 2, 2009

David L. Liebengood, President  
International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 30  
24001 Chaparral  
Boron, CA 93516

Dear Brother Liebengood,

On behalf of the United Steelworkers (USW) Council at Corning, a council of six USW local unions representing over 2,500 Corning employees, we want to thank you for keeping us and our employer, Corning, Inc., informed about the situation in Boron. As you know, Corning is an important customer that depends on quality products from U.S. Borax/Rio Tinto, so your customer updates are extremely valuable.

We are extremely concerned about the way that U.S. Borax/Rio Tinto is treating you and the contract negotiating process. Rio Tinto’s demand for outrageous concessions is unconscionable in light of their reported earnings of \$3.7 billion in 2008, with even greater profits likely in 2009.

It is equally disturbing that U.S. Borax/Rio Tinto has raised the specter of locking you out and has threatened to use less-experienced and lower-skilled workers in your facility.

Corning depends on the high-quality products that you produce in Boron, and anything that compromises the quality or availability of products would naturally be a matter of great concern. We understand that Corning officials may soon be visiting your operation to gain a better understanding of the situation there.

Steelworkers who work at Corning support your decision to stand strong and united when it comes to protecting good jobs that support hardworking families and your communities. We support your struggle for a fair contract and appreciate your efforts to produce the highest quality products for your customers, including Corning, Inc.

We will continue to follow your negotiations and stand ready to provide whatever support we can.

In solidarity,

Tim Tuttle, Chair  
USW Glass Industry Conference

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union  
Five Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 • 412-362-2400 • www.usw.org

Corning is an important customer that buys a lot of our products. That’s why our union has been keeping Corning and other customers informed about the problems that Borax has caused by refusing to negotiate a fair contract with us.

Customers have a right to know if Borax is considering plans to cut corners by using lower paid, less skilled and inexperienced workers – or even locking us out in order to save a buck – especially if those changes could compromise quality.

We’ve made it clear to Corning and other customers that Borax/Rio Tinto is going down the wrong road. All of us here work hard and are proud to produce high quality products that our customers need. That’s why we’ll keep communicating our concerns to customers until Borax gets back on the right track and decides to take the high road.

**Let’s get Borax back on the right track!**

