

We're winning important support to protect good jobs at Borax



We're sticking together and staying strong with our union to help win a good contract.

Our unity in Boron is inspiring others to support us, including members of Congress in Washington.

These officials have pledged to monitor our contract negotiations. They'll be checking to see if the company is being fair and is treating us with respect.

Negotiation Update

Our union Negotiating Committee held our first session with the company on September 15-16 in Lancaster. We exchanged ideas for the next contract and agreed on future dates, which include September 29th and 30th, and October 5th & 6th; both in Lancaster. We'll keep you informed of any developments and let you know as future sessions are scheduled. All union members are welcome to observe the negotiations.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2009

Mr. Gary Goldberg
President & CEO
8051 East Maple Wood Avenue, Building 4
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

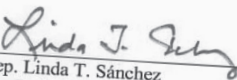
As members of the Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus, we write regarding the upcoming contract negotiations between your U.S. Borax division and the 600 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 30. In this time of economic crisis, we are hopeful that the negotiations will conclude quickly with a fair and just contract for the hard working employees of U.S. Borax.

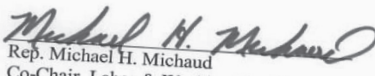
Unfortunately, we have heard reports that recent actions taken by U.S. Borax management have strained the collective bargaining relationship. Cooperative and positive collective bargaining relationships are the key to minimizing labor disputes and producing successful outcomes for employers, employees, and the broader community. Yet we understand that the parties have been unable to resolve grievances prior to arbitration as they have in the past—with a significant increase in the number of grievances being arbitrated or settled on the day of arbitration and a recent union win rate of 99% of these arbitrations. We understand that workers have been reassigned to job duties under circumstances that at least give the appearance the reassignments are in retaliation for speaking out on work issues—if they are not in fact retaliatory. Moreover, we understand that the more adversarial posture has affected workers' sense of job security. These alleged practices are not the hallmark of employee-employer cooperation that represents the best of the American workplace.

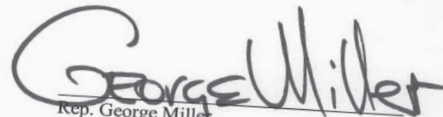
The Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus firmly believes that all American workers deserve fair compensation, adequate healthcare benefits, a safe workplace, and a secure retirement. As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who signed the National Labor Relations Act into law, said, "It is now beyond partisan controversy that it is a fundamental individual right of a worker to associate himself with other workers and to bargain collectively with his employer." America certainly prospers most when both labor and business prosper together.

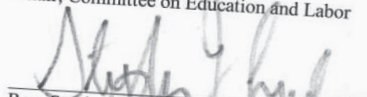
We encourage you to make every effort to conclude negotiations swiftly and avoid the inevitable pain to both sides that a strike or lock-out would cause. As elected officials, we are deeply committed to a strong economy that works for everyone, without sacrificing dignity, self-respect, or the right to organize for improved wages, benefits, and working conditions. We will be actively monitoring the progress of negotiations and would be pleased to offer any appropriate assistance.

Sincerely,


Rep. Linda T. Sánchez
Co-Chair, Labor & Working Families Caucus


Rep. Michael H. Michaud
Co-Chair, Labor & Working Families Caucus


Rep. George Miller
Chair, Committee on Education and Labor


Rep. Stephen F. Lynch
Co-Chair, Labor & Working Families Caucus

Let's stay strong and united to win a good contract at Boron.

For more information or to volunteer, ask a volunteer from the Contract Action Team or call the union office at 762-6151