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FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 23, 2011

David Berg
President and CEO
American Crystal Sugar Company
101 North Third Street
Moorhead, MN 56560

Dear President Berg,

Historically, the working relationship between the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM), farmers and Crystal Sugar management has been both amicable and productive. This relationship serves as an example of how a company, its employees and farmers can work together in a mutually beneficial way.

However, I have concerns about American Crystal Sugar's decision to end good faith contract negotiations with its unionized employees and bring in replacement workers from within the community and outside of the region. Union employees have been unable to work for several months, and recently rejected another contract that falls short of the benefits that these employees deserve. This lockout hurts loyal employees and Minnesota's economy. I respectfully ask that your company resume negotiations with union workers so an equitable outcome can be reached.

This is a serious matter and it must be noted that this lockout jeopardizes years of cooperation between union workers, management and farmers. BCTGM members have stood with American Crystal Sugar Company to ensure the continued operation of the sugar program on the federal level, travelling to our nation's capital numerous times to petition in solidarity alongside your company.

It is my sincere desire that your company join the BCTGM workers at the bargaining table to resolve the issues that separate you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Ellison".

KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress

KME:dmb