

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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August 26, 2011

Mr. Dave Berg
President & CEO
American Crystal Sugar
101 North Third Street
Moorhead, MN 56560

Dear Mr. Berg:

I am writing to express my deep disappointment at the combative and aggressive stance your company has taken in its recent labor dispute with the BCTGM International Union, even going so far as to lock out your own employees. I was glad to hear that in recent days the parties have consented to mediation, and I sincerely hope that the mediation will result in a positive outcome for all parties.

I want you to know that the AFL-CIO stands in complete solidarity with BCTGM in urging you to take all steps necessary to bring this unfortunate dispute to a swift and mutually acceptable conclusion, in particular by negotiating, in good faith, a fair and equitable collective bargaining agreement.

I know that your relationship with the BCTGM International Union has been constructive and beneficial over many years, and this makes the recent escalation especially regrettable.


The AFL-CIO – on behalf of our twelve million members and our 56 unions – has always joined with BCTGM to mobilize support for legislative issues of importance to the BCTGM workers and their companies, including in the agricultural sector. We have done this because the interests of the workers have appeared closely linked to the interests of their company in certain legislative matters. We certainly hope that American Crystal Sugar, with its recent actions, is not signaling that it sees its workers as an obstacle, rather than a partner, as this will certainly impact our relationship and actions going forward.

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I understand that you have defended your actions to cut production costs from now until harvesting time as financially necessary. Yet, American Crystal earned healthy profits in the fiscal year ending in August 2010 -- reporting sales of \$1.2 billion and net income of \$526 million.

I urge you to resolve this matter quickly and appropriately. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,


Richard L. Trumka
President

RLT/TL/lkr
cc: Frank Hurt
Harry Kaiser