

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations



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TELEFAX

To: Mr David Berg
CEO American Crystal Sugar Company
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Date: February 16, 2012
Ref: ro/jc/sl 0165

Dear Mr Berg,

The IUF is a global trade union federation representing workers throughout the food chain. A recent world conference of our agricultural works unions heard a report from our global sugar coordinator, Mr Jorge Chullén, about the situation in your five facilities in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa.

Delegates were shocked in general to hear about the lock-out you are imposing but they were horrified to hear that at a shareholders meeting on November 7, 2011 in Grafton, North Dakota, you likened the American Crystal contract to a cancerous tumor.

This "perspective" contrasts sharply with comments made by an American Crystal spokesperson who, when the previous contract was signed in 2004, said that the contract set "a good tone" for the next seven years and stressed the partnership between the company and the union at a time when the US domestic sugar sector was lobbying against including sugar in any bilateral free trade agreement.

We know that John Risky, President of BCTGM Local 167G, has publically reiterated the Local's support for the current Sugar Program. He commented recently, "We believe Crystal Sugar's determination to break our union could drag down the whole sugar industry. There are at least four bills being considered in Congress that would end the program. "Historically, we've worked hand-in-hand with the company to promote passage of the Sugar Program. This lockout is distracting us from that important work."

On behalf of our 387 affiliated trade unions in 120 countries we urge you to end the lock-out and return to good faith negotiations to establish a contact that is fair for the workers, the company, and the growers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Oswald', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron Oswald

General Secretary

CC: Frank Hurt, International President, BCTGM
John G. Risky, President BCTGM Local 167G