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International Transport Workers' Federation
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport
Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Международная федерация транспортников
التنظيم عالمياً، النضال من أجل حقوقنا

Harold Daggett
President
International Longshoremen's Association AFL-CIO
5000 West Side Avenue
North Bergen
07047
United States of America

Via e-mail: hdaggett@ilaunion.org

Our ref: OGS/SMC/jm

21 May 2018

Dear sisters and brothers of the International Longshoremen's Association,

I am writing to you on behalf of 20 million transport workers across the globe, in particular fellow dock workers, to say that you have the undivided solidarity of your sisters and brothers of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) in the fight to support members in Philadelphia and Wilmington.

It is a hugely challenging time for dock workers worldwide. Companies are becoming more and more aggressive in their attacks on organised labour, using both blatant anti-union tactics as well as more subtle means to side step obligations and maximise profits at the expense of all else.

We're fighting against it in Asia Pacific, we're fighting against it in Europe, we're fighting against it everywhere – so you are not alone in the battle on the east coast.

The Ports of Delaware River Marine Trade Association (PMTA) and the Philadelphia Port Authority think they can continue to unilaterally drive down terms and conditions. Certain companies in the jurisdiction are deliberately pitting worker against worker in a blatant attempt to undermine both the ILA-USMX Master Contract and local agreements. Further, the PMTA has been unwilling to engage in genuine good faith discussions with the ILA in order to find a solution.

The situation cannot continue. The PMTA underestimates the strength of the ILA, the strength of its members, and the strength of solidarity of your international sisters and brothers. The ITF and all our affiliates suffer attacks time and time again, but time and time again we fight back. And time and time again we win.

The east coast of the US belongs to the ILA. Your members support each other and embody the dignity, respect and unity that we promote around the world.

The ITF continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with you. We commit to take all lawful steps necessary to take back work in the port of Philadelphia and Wilmington, and secure the futures of dock workers, their families and communities for years to come.

Again, on behalf of 20 million transport workers from 650 unions in 140 countries worldwide, we are with you in this fight.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen' followed by a stylized flourish.

Stephen Cotton
ITF General Secretary

Cc:

James McNamara, Director, ILA, jmcnamara@ilaunion.org;

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