



LOCAL 2-21 C.A.T. Letter

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I don't even know how or where to start this CAT Letter. I am so overwhelmed by the actions of the 111 union members at last night's union meeting that I still fight back tears just thinking about it. By a unanimous vote it was decided the Local will cover my lost wages (to be reviewed monthly) while I am off of work. It was also decided there would be no vote on a contract until I am brought back and made whole. I am checking on the legalities of these motions but regardless of the outcome, the show of support last night was more than I could take at times while standing in front of all of you.

I'm telling you, this is coming right from my heart.....all of you are not just a union member or a co-worker....you are all friends....all family. Together we belong to an organization that has a bond so strong we can overcome anything. When one of us hurts, we all hurt.

I was asked to include some of the events (in this CAT Letter) that have taken place over the last week in an attempt to stop some of the rumors. I was sent home on Friday pending investigation of my issue. I contacted the USW (Sally) and she contacted our lawyers in Pittsburgh. On Saturday I got a visit by the Sherriff's department as NewPage had gone to them to file a formal criminal complaint. It was explained to me this was not a criminal issue but they wanted to talk to me anyway. It was a friendly conversation by a friend I know at the Sherriff's department. I know the rumors going around have me fired and in jail. Neither are true.....yet.

Glenn Grill, the head of HR at corporate, asked Sally Feistel if she would agree to have a 3rd party investigate and to have his/her decision be binding. Naturally we did not agree to that as we are not giving away our right to grieve any discipline, especially when I don't feel I did anything wrong. As of this writing there is no meeting set with the company. Erick Nyberg told Mike Young that Greg Maule would have to be present for the meeting and he supposedly was coming back into the mill today.

I will keep all of you informed of the results of any meeting by having the C-5 team immediately spread the word and will follow it up with a CAT Letter. In the meantime, please don't do anything to get you in trouble. We'll get through this but any additional trouble caused by this may be a different story.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Thank you for your support.
In Solidarity,

Bryon Branstrom