



CONGRESSMAN MATTHEW F. McHUGH  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 17, 1986

Dear Friends:

I am very concerned about the situation at Cargill. A long record of labor-management cooperation has come to an abrupt end with this dispute, which is now in its eighth week. As I understand it, the union workers, members of the Machinists Union, are asking for a renewal of their recently expired contract; Cargill has begun to bring in permanent replacements for the striking workers; and the National Labor Relations Board has said that Cargill should be bargaining in good faith.

This country has a long and proud history of workers struggling for better working conditions and decent wages. That struggle was not in vain, for it finally produced a generally constructive relationship between labor and management, one in which good faith bargaining has usually generated better economic conditions for both parties and for our communities.

But good faith bargaining is crucial to this process and the progress which has resulted. In this case, both parties should return to the table and negotiate. Let the bargaining be hard, let the negotiations be vigorous, but let them proceed -- openly and without bitterness. An agreement, fairly arrived at, would be in the interest of all parties and this community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Matt McHugh", written in a cursive style.

Matthew F. McHugh

MFm:jcm