

Dear

I understand that you have received a bid from Cargill, Inc. on its salt. I urge you not to do business with Cargill. This company has proven itself to have irresponsible management, violating worker's rights and promoting life-threatening production methods.

It is rarely a 'freak' accident when workers die in the workplace; it is usually a symptom of neglect and exploitation. The last major accident at Cargill's Lansing, NY salt mine cost two workers their lives during a temporary speed-up. In 1978, a Cargill mine in Louisiana had to be shut down after an entire shift was wiped out in an accident.

In April, 1960, 140 miners went on strike at the Cargill plant in Lansing in response to Cargill proposals which promise to systematically strip workers of physical protection and job security. This is not a strike over wages; this is a strike over safety, security, and basic rights in the workplace.

The proposals plan: (1) to increase the number of seasonal workers, paying them lower wages and denying them benefits gained by the union, (2) to move workers around between classifications and shifts "temporarily" for indefinite periods, thus getting less workers to do more work at higher risk, (3) to call back workers after lay-offs and strikes on the basis of seniority within classification rather than seniority within the plant, thus freeing management to manipulate positions and scabs to keep out "undesirables" and (4) in a plant in which the majority of jobs require easily learned skills, to consider job bids on the basis of skills rather than seniority, denying workers any possibility of job security, any possibility of control over themselves.

These proposals will result in more accidents and no job security. With nothing to sell but one's labour, control over how that labour is used represents the last vestige of possible security and autonomy. Cargill's proposals are systematic moves to strip workers of all rights.

Is this responsible management? Is this management you wish to be responsible for perpetuating? I trust that you, unlike Cargill, are committed to nurturing responsibility in the workplace and will execute your business transactions accordingly.

Please, join the many who wish to put an end to such abuse.

Sincerely,