

Dear -----,

We are writing you to thank you for the extremely important contribution you made to our investigation of Smith Corona, and to say that we appreciate your courage in taking a public stand as you did at our press conference. ~~You may feel that nothing was accomplished, since~~ we were unable to bring a suit against the company under the federal plant closing notification law, but we believe that our investigation, and your statements to the media, will make ~~some~~ difference in the ongoing struggle to protect the rights of workers in conflicts with abusive employers.

The Tompkins/Cortland Labor Coalition has sent the results of our investigation to the Sugar Law Center in Detroit, where it will be used to document for congress the need for a stronger federal law to guarantee adequate notice of layoff. We have also sent information about the Smith Corona case to New York Assemblyman Frank Barbaro, who will use your testimony to gain support for a state plant closing law. And we have written to Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, who sponsored Smith Corona's request for a federal tax exemption as a Foreign Trade subzone, telling him that in view of the company's deplorable treatment of its employees it should lose this benefit.

It is extremely frustrating to see that Smith Corona's poor treatment of at least 1000 employees will be allowed to stand without compensation for those individuals such as yourself who have lost so much. But at least the company has not been able to harm so many people without some public condemnation of their actions. The bad publicity they got from the evidence we presented and the stories you told has certainly put some tarnish on the reputation of the company. We hope other employers in the area will take note that even unorganized workers have some power to fight back when their rights are abused.

Finally, we want to tell you that the Coalition is willing and able to help any workers in Tompkins or Cortland counties who want to organize a union in their workplace. In the end, organized workers have many more resources to protect themselves against employers like Smith Corona.

In Solidarity,

*Saved under:  
Smith C*