



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW

BOB KING, *PRESIDENT*

DENNIS D. WILLIAMS, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*

VICE-PRESIDENTS: JOE ASHTON • CINDY ESTRADA • GENERAL HOLIEFIELD • JIMMY SETTLES

September 6, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you for your overwhelming support during the recent strike authorization vote. After tallying the results from all Locals, the membership has voted 97.1% in favor of granting the International Executive Board the authority to call for a strike should contract negotiations reach an impasse.

Though there are no official historical records, it is believed that both the percentage and overall turnout are at or above record levels. This is a tremendous show of solidarity from our membership and it should serve to put Ford Motor Company on notice that the 41,000 UAW Ford hourly and salary employees are committed, and in full support of their National Negotiators.

The UAW-Ford department has always strived to settle contracts and disputes with management through negotiations, not strikes. Historically, the vast majority of contracts have been settled at the bargaining table without resorting to strike action. Nevertheless, there are times when talks alone do not succeed in resolving issues.

Per the International UAW Constitution, any authorization to strike must first be approved, by the membership through secret ballot by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. This is why your participation was of critical importance.

I would like to thank each of you along with the leadership at your respective Locals for standing firm with your National Negotiators and giving them this resource to assist them with our contract demands.

Additionally, I want to thank you for taking the time to sign up for these news wire alerts. As I said previously, you are, and will continue to be the first to hear any information with regards to contract negotiations from the UAW National Ford Department. Encourage others at your Local and plant to sign up by going to: <https://uawsolidweb.org/index.php/uaw-ford-newswire>.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Settles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jimmy Settles
Vice President and Director
UAW National Ford Department

JS/bw
opeiu494