



Leo W. Gerard
International President

February 5, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Five days ago, 3,800 USW oil workers at nine facilities were forced to take bold and courageous action as we started the largest national oil strike in 35 years. We came to the bargaining table with common-sense proposals to make our refineries safer and make our jobs more secure, but the industry refused to seriously address our concerns. We're in the fight of our lives and we're going to do whatever it takes to win fair contracts.

The nine units who have been called out on strike are fighting hard, holding strong on the picket lines, organizing strike assistance committees, and mobilizing to build support for our fight for safe refineries in their communities. The local unions that have not been called out on strike yet are continuing to mobilize and take action in their plants, turning out to support our striking sisters and brothers, and preparing to follow on strike as necessary.

The level of strength, solidarity and commitment that we have seen from USW oil workers across the union has been incredible. But the stakes couldn't be higher and we need to continue to escalate and expand this fight.

This Saturday we are organizing a National Day of Action for "Safe Refineries, Secure Jobs and Healthy Communities." USW members at oil refineries across the country — those striking and those still working — are planning plant rallies, marches and other actions to show the industry that they're supporting our negotiating team and policy committee and that they're prepared to continue the fight to do whatever it takes to win fair contracts.

This Saturday, all eyes will be on us. The industry, the media and our communities will be watching closely to see how much support we have. It is essential that we have strong and dynamic actions at all locations. Everyone should be redoubling their efforts to mobilize for the National Day of Action so we can show the industry that we're strong, we're united and we're committed to doing whatever it takes to win fair contracts.

Thank you all for your strength, your support and your solidarity in this very difficult fight. Stay strong, stay safe, and together we will last one day longer.

In solidarity,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

Thomas Conway
International Vice President
Administration

Gary Beevers
International Vice President
National Oil Bargaining

c: USW International Executive Board
Oil Industry Service Staff Representatives

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union