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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I recently learned about your struggle at Momentive Performance Materials. While I cannot be there with you in person, please know that I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the 700 members of IUE and CWA Locals 81359 and 81380 in your fight against corporate greed and for the economic security of your families.

At a time when corporate America is engaged in a ruthless race to the bottom, you are fighting back against efforts by a profitable company that's trying to jack up your health care costs, undermine your vacation time, reduce 401(k) payments, and take away healthcare benefits from retirees who worked for decades in a dangerous chemical plant environment. Your labor is what makes this company's profits, and yet the private equity investors that own Momentive treat you as just another cost of doing business. But miraculously, Momentive somehow has plenty of money to pay its CEO \$5.4 million in compensation.

Meanwhile, the company's refusal to negotiate in good faith has put the safety of surrounding communities at risk. Unlike the IUE and CWA members who are trained to work with the chemicals used in the plant, the replacement workers Momentive brought in lack the same training and experience. No company should be able to endanger public safety in this manner, as a tactic to undermine the legitimate claims of the workers.

Most of all, I wanted to reiterate something you all know. You are not just fighting for yourselves. Your struggle is connected to workers all over our country. I salute you for your courage to stand up to a billion-dollar company, and I applaud those who have come out to support you in this fight. At a time when there are so many efforts to divide working people from one another, you are an inspiration, standing together for a better life for yourselves, your families, and working people everywhere.

In solidarity.



BERNIE SANDERS
UNITED STATES SENATOR