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President: Berthold Huber
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Geneva 18 July 2012

Mr. Kevin Burke
CEO of Consolidated Edison
New York, USA

By e-mail: burkek@coned.com

Lockout of 8,500 Utility Workers in New York City

Dear Mr Burke,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 50 million members in 140 countries, affiliated to IndustriAll Global Union. We represent workers globally across supply chains in the energy, mining, manufacturing and related sectors, including members of our affiliate, the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA).

It is with deep outrage that we learned from the UWUA of the unjust and anti-union actions of the New York USA electricity and gas utility company, Consolidated Edison. The lockout of 8,500 union members in an attempt to force upon them unacceptable working conditions and degraded social benefits can only be interpreted as a shameless and transparent union-busting attempt.

Consolidated Edison imposed the lockout as part of its scheme to extract huge bargaining concessions from utility workers, including demands to eliminate the existing retirement plan for new employees and to impose additional healthcare costs on all workers. Consolidated Edison is making these demands despite posting profits of US\$1.1 billion last year.

I strongly urge you to put an end to the unacceptable lockout at Consolidated Edison. IndustriAll Global Union stands with the UWUA in their demand for a fair and just resolution to this vicious assault on their members. We will alert our affiliates worldwide in electricity and mining sectors to show their solidarity and support to UWUA members.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JR", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary

CC. D. Michael Langford, President, UWUA