

7 May 2019

Mr Leo Gerard  
President  
United Steelworkers  
60 Boulevard of the Allies Pittsburgh  
PA15222 USA

Via email: [lgerard@usw.org](mailto:lgerard@usw.org)

Dear Brother Gerard,

**Re - Australian Workers Union, support locked out USW Local 13-1 workers.**

I write to you on behalf of the Australian Workers Union (AWU), which represents over 70,000 thousands Australian workers many of which are Steelworkers. I want to make clear that the AWU stands in solidarity with the United Steelworkers at Rohm and Haas Texas Inc, who have been locked out by the company in their efforts to negotiate a fair deal.

Rohm and Haas Texas Inc are a wholly owned subsidiary of DowDuPont, and this multinational employer has full responsibility for this unfair labor practice of locking out hard-working people in Deer Park. The AWU calls on DowDuPont to ensure that Rohm and Haas Texas Inc bargains in good faith and to reach an agreement with Local 13-1 so that work can restart under a fair contract.

The AWU understands that 228 members of Local 13-1 have been locked out in Deer Park by the company since 22 April. The Local 13-1 membership has voted overwhelmingly to twice reject the company's offer. We understand that your member's concerns are around wages, overtime distribution, and arbitration provisions, these things are important to workers. Instead of respecting workers concerns and continuing to bargain in good faith, the employer has responded to these votes with a mass lockout.

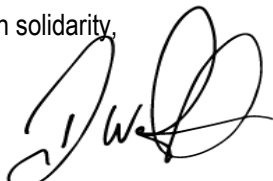
The hard-working members of Local 13-1 and families deserve wages that are at least in line with industry standards. The AWU supports your members fight for decent industry standards, including proper staffing and fair overtime distribution.

Australian workers also support your fight for a fair arbitration process that brings unresolved grievances to an independent arbitrator for resolution. Independent arbitration is a fundamental pillar to ensuring workers have a real voice on important workplace issues.

History proves that the short-sighted and inflammatory actions like Rohm and Haas Texas Inc decision to lock out workers instead of bargaining with them in good faith is not a sustainable business model that will succeed in the long term.

The AWU sends our warmest solidarity and support to Local 13-1's picket line and union hall in Pasadena, you are not alone. If there is anything the AWU can do to assist, please don't hesitate to contact me via email on [daniel.walton@nat.awu.net.au](mailto:daniel.walton@nat.awu.net.au).

In solidarity,



Daniel Walton  
**NATIONAL AND NSW BRANCH SECRETARY**