



**IndustriALL Global Union World Energy Conference
10-11 April 2014
Madrid, Spain**

Resolution in solidarity with embattled UWUA members at FirstEnergy

The energy industry trade unions representing members in 48 countries meeting at the IndustriALL Global Union World Energy Conference in Madrid, Spain on 10-11 April approved the following resolution in support of the 3,200 Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) members at FirstEnergy utilities in the US.

Noting that:

- The UWUA represents 3,200 workers of FirstEnergy – the third largest U.S. electric power company – in the U.S. states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.
- FirstEnergy has employed anti-worker tactics including an extended lockout, undermining and bypassing the collective bargaining process, aggressive unilateral cuts in workers' benefits and working conditions, two recent plant closures costing 380 jobs, unfair cuts to customer service standards and has carried out unsafe and substandard work with replacement workers.
- 142 UWUA members at FirstEnergy's Penelec subsidiary in central Pennsylvania held strong through a vicious lockout that started three days before the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday and lasted four months through a record cold winter, but still face malicious concession demands designed to undermine customer service and fair labour standards.
- FirstEnergy is demanding similar concessions from more than 700 additional UWUA members across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, and these workers' collective agreement is scheduled to expire on April 30.
- In West Virginia, FirstEnergy has refused to agree to a fair, first union contract for UWUA members at a power generating plant, even though these workers voted for representation by UWUA more than three years ago in October 2010.
- Trade unions around the world this year responded to a call from global unions to write to FirstEnergy CEO through the online campaign tool LabourStart.

Delegates of the IndustriALL Global Union World Energy Conference resolved to:

- Stand in full solidarity with the UWUA sisters and brothers facing an illegal attack from their employer FirstEnergy. The campaign to protect union rights and dignified working conditions throughout the company's operations may be long but all energy industry unions affiliated to IndustriALL Global Union rallies behind the UWUA in their "One Day Longer, One Day Stronger" campaign.
- Send this important international solidarity resolution to FirstEnergy management, together with a letter from IndustriALL general secretary Jyrki Raina.
- Send a multinational video of solidarity and support from conference delegates to the UWUA.