Geneva 26 July 2012

Douglas R. Oberhelman
Chairman and CEO of Caterpillar Inc.

Email: doberhelman@caterpillar.com

Long-standing dispute with striking workers at Caterpillar's Joliet plant in Illinois

Dear Mr Oberhelman,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of IndustriALL Global Union representing more than 50 million workers in some 140 countries throughout the world. We represent workers globally across supply chains in the energy, mining, manufacturing and related sectors including members of our affiliate, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

It is with deep outrage that we learned from the IAM of the unjust and anti-union actions of Caterpillar in the Joliet plant in Illinois. Despite Caterpillar earning a record $4.9 billion profit in 2011 and even better results projected for 2012, your company has insisted on a six year wage freeze, a pension freeze and sharp increases in health care coverage contributions for most of the 780 production workers at your plant in Joliet. Caterpillar has imposed this situation upon workers in Joliet in the attempt to make the plant "competitive".

We find the behaviour of your company unacceptable, IndustriALL Global Union fully supports the IAM's rejection of the six-year pact that Caterpillar offered. The deal lacked raises and increased health care costs for employees and undercut union seniority rules.

I strongly urge you to engage with the IAM for a fair and just resolution to this matter. Do not forget that it is the skilled workers that have made your company one of the most profitable in 2011. IndustriALL Global Union stands with the IAM in their demand for a fair and just resolution to this dispute.

I look forward to hearing from you.

In solidarity,

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary