

# PAINTERS & ALLIED TRADES DISTRICT COUNCIL No. 7

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AFL-CIO

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**John T. Jorgensen-Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer**

May 28, 2006

PPG Industries, Inc.  
1300 PPG Drive  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Dear Management:

Our District Council proudly represents over 260 members employed at PPG's Oak Creek plant along with its 2,200 other members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO in Wisconsin. It is no secret that the success of any corporation equates directly to its cooperation and respect of the actual workforce.

We here in Wisconsin take personal offense to your media attacks on the members of Machinists Lodge 470. These 900 workers who give their heart and soul to the company's efforts are now incorrectly being portrayed according to our reading of news reports from your area. We find it personally upsetting that PPG officials would boast that they managed to keep a sister plant in West Virginia operating during a five and one half month strike and can do the same in Lake Charles. From our perspective, it certainly appears that the Company management in your area has become hostile toward the labor movement, and may even be putting profits ahead of safety. We believe your efforts should be directed to resolving the contract issues at the bargaining table rather than attempting to exploit workers. Taking advantage of an economic disaster is no way to settle collective bargaining differences. Until a few days ago, the contractual relationship without work stoppage at PPG's Lake Charles facility spanned nearly five decades, and we encourage you to return to the bargaining table, and reasonably negotiate with the Union. The very nature of your business there presents major safety concerns and should not be taken lightly. Your workforce is highly trained and skilled, and to minimize these workers' credentials is self-serving and punitive.

Perhaps you have lost sight of the contributions these hard workingmen and women provide on a daily basis. A simple reminder would be how these workers put their own personal tragedies aside in wake of the horrific hurricane destruction, often working unprecedented long hours away from their families in need, and providing loyalty to rebuilding your company first. These workers have legitimate concerns and issues that need to be addressed.

We salute these workers willing to make the sacrifices necessary not only for themselves, but for the generations of workers to come. We share their concern over punishing new workers who require the same expertise to perform the sophisticated level of work, and attempts at cutting them out of benefits. The Company's insistence on implementing a two-tier wage system makes no sense. It is selfish.



## Representing:

Painters

Drywall Tapers  
& Finishers

Paint Makers

Glaziers

Glass Workers

Sign & Display  
Workers

Members of  
Local Unions:

108

579

770

781

802

934

941

1204

