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OAK HARBOR FREIGHT LINES RETALIATES AGAINST RETURNING WORKERS

Company's Unlawful Actions Could Incite New Strike

(Washington) -- Oak Harbor Freight Lines is attempting to fire thirteen workers, represented by the Teamsters, and illegally eliminate workers' healthcare and pension plans after the union decided to end a five-month strike last week. Over 500 workers at Oak Harbor in Oregon, Idaho and Washington originally went on strike on September 22, 2008 to protest the company's violations of federal labor laws. Prior to that, the Oak Harbor's employees had never gone on strike.

The latest unlawful move by Oak Harbor could incite a new strike just as the company is attempting to recover from the 157-day strike that triggered widespread service disruptions and cost Oak Harbor more than half of its business.

"It was our hope that the company would take our offer to return-to-work as a positive step toward resolving our differences," said Teamsters International Vice President Al Hobart. "But it is now clear that Oak Harbor's owners and their union busting attorney are willing to sacrifice customers, ruin the lives of hard working union families and drive this company into the ground to get rid of the Teamsters."

According to documents released by the company last week, Oak Harbor is preparing to illegally eliminate returning workers' healthcare plan, switch returning workers to a substandard plan administered by the company and abolish workers' retirement fund. The company will also immediately suspend, without pay, thirteen union supporters on suspicious grounds and reserve the right to terminate more employees for union activities.

"Retaliating against union supporters is just another sign that Oak Harbor is a rogue company that is being propped up by several merciless shippers and financial institutions, including KeyBank (NYSE: Key) and Burlington Coat Factory (NYSE: BCF)," Hobart said.

These actions are just the most recent in the company's ongoing effort to deny workers a fair contract and break the Union.

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In December 2008, the National Labor Relations Board found merit in the union's charges alleging that Oak Harbor violated federal labor law and bargained in bad faith by creating a Drivers' Committee to undermine the union, unlawfully soliciting grievances, and making unilateral changes in working conditions.

Additionally, the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) recently published a report in which it concluded that Oak Harbor violated international labor rights standards. According to the report, Oak Harbor used "permanent striker replacements to undermine freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining of Oak Harbor and employed unethical and unlawful practices in the recruitment and employment of the replacement workers, including deceptive hiring practices, non-payment of wages and racial and gender discrimination in work assignment."

In a response to these violations, Gap Inc. and several major customers have stopped using Oak Harbor. "The report by the International Labor Rights Forum and the failure of (Oak Harbor) management to work out a resolution with the Teamsters in a timely manner all contributed to our conclusion that our continued presence at Oak Harbor would not meaningfully contribute to a speedy resolution," said Dan Henkle, Senior Vice President at Gap Inc.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters was founded in 1903 and represents more than 1.4 million hardworking men and women in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.