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IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Locked out Boilermakers at CESSCO seek return to work, fair contract

Five years of no increases; company demands cuts to wages, pensions, seniority

Edmonton, Alberta, (Aug. 6, 2020) – Thirty workers have been locked out for over a month at CESSCO Fabrication and Engineering Ltd., and are going without paychecks and other benefits after the company served up “last, best and final” contract demands that reduce wages and pension contributions and gut critical seniority language. The workers, who are members of Local 146 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, had been bargaining with the company for over two and a half years and had not seen increases in wages or benefits in over five years. Workers had hoped to continue bargaining until a satisfactory compromise could be reached, but CESSCO locked them out of their jobs Sunday, June 28.

The union has set up a picket line in front of the plant at 7310 99th Street, where members of the community, along with Local 146 families, have joined and participated daily from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. since the lock out began. Local 146 set up a link for contributions to support the locked-out workers: <https://boilermakers.ca/please-support-our-locked-out-boilermakers-from-cessco-2/>

CESSCO, which is part of Ontario-based Canerector Inc. (formerly Canadian Erectors Ltd.), presented its last, best and final contract demands on June 25, along with a threat to lock out workers. The CESSCO contract called for a 10% wage decrease, as well as decreases in pension contributions. Additionally, it removed seniority language that sets specific rules for worker layoffs—language that protects workers against favoritism or bias and cementing clear practices based on seniority.

“This is yet another case of a large multi-affiliate company looking to increase its profits on the backs of local workers who are responsible for the products and productivity that have made the company successful in the first place,” says Arnie Stadnick, Edmonton resident and Boilermakers’ International Vice President who leads the union’s Canadian operations. “It seems CESSCO would rather pad its own pockets than do what’s right: continue bargaining towards a contract that provides fair wages and pensions and protects the union workers who have dedicated decades of their best work to this company.”

(Continued)

“What CESSCO has done is harsh and unfair—especially amid a global pandemic.”

Says Local 146 steward Jeff Burns: “We *want* to keep working and honor our commitments while we continue the bargaining process with CESSCO. We’re just asking for fair wages for an honest day of work. But we’ve been locked out because of corporate greed, pure and simple.”

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Contact

Rick Vanderveen, Boilermakers International Rep
780-908-2591
rvanderveen@boilermakers.org

Casey Worden, Organizer
780-990-4527
cworden@boilermakers.ca

Mackenzie Walker, Assistant Business Manager
780-887-5764
mwalker@boilermakers.ca

Amy Wiser, Boilermakers Director of Communication
317-847-0745
awiser@boilermakers.org

Established in 1880, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers is a diverse union representing workers throughout the United States and Canada who are employed in industrial construction, maintenance and repair; ship building; manufacturing; railroads; cement; mining and related industries. More information can be found at www.boilermakers.org.

Boilermakers Local 146 represents more than 3,500 workers in heavy construction, manufacturing, mills and other industries. More information can be found at <https://boilermakers.ca/>.