



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HAMILTON

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

January 12, 2011

Dear Prime Minister,

As the Mayor of the City of Hamilton I have to express my personal displeasure at the current situation involving U.S. Steel, and USW Local 1005. You no doubt have been kept abreast of events here in Hamilton that has resulted in a lock out of employees, and threats to the income of thousands of pensioners. The implications for our City are obvious.

Furthermore we are confronted with the sad reality that orders originally intended for production in Hamilton by Canadian workers are now benefiting facilities and workers located in the United States. There are many good examples of foreign companies whose investments in Canada are bringing us net benefits, companies which in some cases the local U.S. Steel management can see from their office windows.

Mr. Prime Minister, protection of our workers and our steel-making capacity, both of which impact on our sovereignty as a nation, must of highest political priority. I urge you to see that our workers, our jobs, and the strategic requirements of nation-building through proper stewardship of manufacturing assets be addressed with the powers vested in your office and your government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Bratina".

Bob Bratina  
Mayor  
City of Hamilton



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December 17, 2010

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The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Office and Professional Employee's Union in Ontario (COPE), to protest the current lockout of the workers from the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1005 by U.S. Steel.

Talks between the employer and USW Local 1005 hit a major impasse over the company's demands to close the employee defined benefit pension plan to new employees, who would go onto a defined contributions pension plan. When U.S. Steel bought Stelco on October 31, 2007, it was fully aware of its obligations toward the over 8,000 pensioners and the pension fund. It signed a contract with the federal government guaranteeing employment and production levels and declared in press releases that its takeover would be no problem for Canadians and even a "net benefit". The company made loud, public declarations that Hamilton workers and community businesses were safe with them.

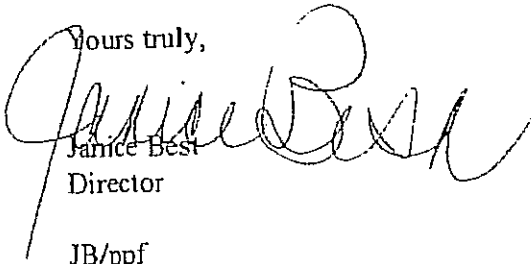
It is not surprising that the Union has accused U.S. Steel of bad faith bargaining when the company chose to shut down a blast furnace in Canada and then start up two blast furnaces in the U.S. On November 7, 2010, U.S. Steel locked out the workers at Hamilton Steel. This follows a similar lengthy dispute involving USW Local 8782 in Nanticoke, Ontario, locked out for several months to extract the same concessions from these steelworkers.

This current clash is particularly egregious because your government's approval of the purchase of the Stelco plant in Hamilton in 2007 was contingent on commitments from U.S. Steel on maintaining certain employment and production levels. It does not appear those commitments are being taken seriously by U.S. Steel. In essence, it has become clear that U.S. Steel's Hamilton plant is not considered by the company to be a primary site for production. A primary production site does not shut down regularly and have its production

shifted to plants in the United States. Your government must hold foreign monopolies to account, in particular foreign monopolies such as U.S. Steel, which your government has permitted to take over vital sectors of the Canadian economy. Our Canadian working men and women deserve better than this.

U. S. Steel owes it to the people of Hamilton to fulfill its employment and production commitments. Mr. Harper, you have an obligation to defend not only the interests of the workers currently locked out by U.S. Steel, but also those of the pensioners of USW Local 1005 who worked so hard all their lives and contributed significantly to the Canadian economy.

Yours truly,



Janice Best  
Director

JB/ppf

cc Rolf Gerstenberger, President USW Local 1005  
Jake Lombardo, Chair of the Political Action Committee USW Local 1005  
COPE Ontario Executive Board  
COPE Ontario Local Unions  
COPE Ontario Staff

cope343

December 20, 2010

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of our board of directors and 130,000 members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union I wish to draw your attention to the serious deterioration of labour relations in the City of Hamilton caused by U.S. Steel, an American multinational corporation which seems intent on breaking the will of its employees who seek little more than decent wages and benefits for themselves and their families.

When U.S. Steel bought the Stelco operations it committed to maintaining 3,100 jobs as part of the "net Canadian benefit" in its agreement with the Government of Canada, but has now reduced its workforce to half that number. It used an eight-month lockout to force employees at its Nanticoke plant to agree to a two-tier pension earlier this year, then shut down its Hamilton blast furnace in October.

These actions by U.S. Steel represent another example of our federal government refusing to stand in defense of Canadian workers who find themselves victims of a foreign-based corporation who treat our great country as little more than an economic colony to be pillaged at will.

Regrettably, the behaviour of U.S. Steel fits an all-too-common pattern. Too many communities have been compromised and too many workers have seen their livelihoods destroyed by the predatory practices of multinational corporations like Vale Inco, Xstrata, Abitibi Bowater, Nortel, Rio Tinto and others. They demonstrate no loyalty to nation-building and even less in the economic and social health of their workforce and the communities in which they live.

How can the Government of Canada, of whatever political stripe, stand in silence as witness to the destructive actions of U.S. Steel and other similar-minded corporations doing business in Canada?

OPSEU strongly supports the position of the Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council which has called on your Office to intervene on behalf of its members to stop U.S. Steel's anti-labour practices. Furthermore, we call on your government to change the applicable laws on foreign investment to prevent the corrosive labour relations displayed by U.S. Steel from spreading to other communities.

We do not oppose foreign investment in Canada. But those corporations who wish to do business in our country must abide by rules put into place to protect workers and their communities.

Sincerely



Warren (Smokey) Thomas  
President

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and NUPGE

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Le SEFPO est associé  
à la FTO, au CTC  
et au SNEGSP





Hamilton — Brantford, Ontario Building & Construction Trades Council  
Chartered By The Building And Construction Trades Department AFL - CIO - CLC  
1104 Fennell Avenue East, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8T 1R9 • (905) 389-1574 Fax: (905) 389-2207

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Hamilton-Brantford, Ontario Building & Construction Trades Council to express our discontent at what is happening to the Steel Industry in Hamilton Ont. and around our country. The present situation, involving US steel and USW Local 1005 is another example of the Canadian government sitting on their hands, while a foreign multi-national company are attempting, to decimate a community using its dominant global position. This action is totally unacceptable to Local 1005, and to the residents of Hamilton, and their families.

The question must be asked, why any foreign company be allowed, to have no concern for the fair working laws of Canada, to serve its own interests in the USA. The 8,000 members of the Hamilton-Brantford, Ontario Building & Construction Trades Council are requesting, that your government stand up and stop this behavior, and change the applicable laws on foreign take overs, to prevent similar unfair practices in the future. We should be encouraging foreign investment providing they play by the rules, that have been established by all stripes of governments to protect workers and communities, across the whole of Canada

Yours truly

Joseph Beattie  
Business Manager



## LOCAL 7135

President: **Steve Weller**  
350 Kenilworth Avenue North,  
Hamilton, Ontario,  
L8H 4T3  
905-544-3554 Fax: 905-544-5659

Recoding Secretary: **Grantley Howell**

Friday, 14 January 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing on behalf of Local 7135 USW to express our displeasure at what is happening in our City and communities across Canada at the present time. The current situation involving US Steel and Local 1005 is another example of the Canadian government standing idly by while a foreign multi-national company attacks a community in the guise of labour relations. It is a scene we have seen repeated time and time again. This conduct is unacceptable in a free and democratic society.

We came under the same attack as these workers in 2009.

We have witness the same attacks at Vale-Inco in Sudbury, Port Colborne and the ongoing dispute at Voisey Bay. It should be noted that like us they didn't ask for a strike, in fact they offered the company a status quo agreement. Yet US Steel says it is a labour relations dispute. I would argue that this is anything but a labour dispute.

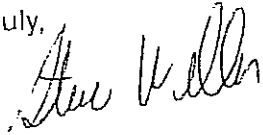
Mr. Prime Minister you need to recognise that this is an attack by a foreign company to serve its own interests in the United States and to have little or no concern as to the devastation this type of action causes to entire communities here in Canada.

On behalf of our members I am asking you not to stand idly by and watch Canada steel industry die a slow death at the hands of a foreign company. The workers at National Steel Car need the steel that these plants produce to make railway cars.

The 1000 members of Local 7135 USW are asking that you not only step in to stop this current situation at US Steel, but put in place applicable laws that protect the workers and communities

across Canada from harmful conduct of foreign companies.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Weller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "W".

Steve Weller



## Hamilton NDP Caucus

January 17, 2010

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister  
80 Wellington St.  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

As you know, we have been raising issues impacting the workers and pensioners at U.S. Steel for well over 2 years now in the House of Commons.

While we were pleased to see your government pursue legal action against the company when it was apparent that it failed to meet the production and employment commitments that U.S. Steel had made as part of its foreign-takeover bid, that action alone cannot be the government's sole response to the crisis faced by the workers and pensioners at US Steel.

It is imperative that you and your Ministers take a leadership role in assisting the workers and pensioners through this crisis that is not of their making. We're encouraged that the government now supports our call to make the locked-out workers eligible for Employment Insurance. It will undoubtedly ease the financial hardship that the 900 active members of USW Local 1005 are experiencing. However, all of these hard-working steelworkers would much prefer to be doing their jobs in the plant.

Your government must protect Canadian jobs and our country's steel-making capacity. A long overdue first step in that process is the development of a national steel sector strategy. It is completely unacceptable that orders that were originally intended for Hamilton production by Canadian workers are now benefitting American workers at U.S. plants. It is imperative for your government to recognize the strategic importance of Canada's steel industry, and ensure its survival as an integral part of our country's manufacturing base.

And in the same way that we are calling on your government to support the active workers at U.S. Steel, we are also calling on you to protect the interests of the 9,000 pensioners that are being negatively impacted by U.S. Steel's threat to their retirement security. While your government has thus far failed to acknowledge its responsibility on pension issues by deeming them to be matters within provincial jurisdiction, in U.S. Steel's case the company acknowledged its pension obligations in its foreign take-over bid of Stelco. These pension commitments must be viewed in the same light as the employment and production commitments made by U.S. Steel under the Investment Canada Act, and it is incumbent upon your government to ensure that the company's retirees will continue to have access to their defined benefit pension plans. Pensions are deferred wages, and retired steelworkers must be protected from the company's threat to their incomes.

Active and retired steelworkers in Hamilton have made significant contributions to our economy for over a century. It is now time for the federal government to protect their interests. Prime Minister, your government must act now to defend the interests of the workers and retirees of USW Local 1005 as well as our community as a whole.

Sincerely,



**David Christopherson, MP**  
**Hamilton Centre**

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**Chris Charlton, MP**  
**Hamilton Mountain**

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**Wayne Marston, MP**  
**Hamilton East-Stoney Creek**

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marstw@parl.gc.ca  
www.waynemarston.ca

cc Rolf Gerstenberger, President, USW Local 1005  
Jake Lombardo, Chair of the Political Action Committee, USW Local 1005



BRICK AND ALLIED CRAFT UNION OF CANADA  
LOCAL 1

360 James Street N. Suite 101, Hamilton, Ontario L8L 1H5  
Office: 905-527-8418 Fax: 905-528-8886  
Email: bricklayers@bellnet.ca

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January 19, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Brick and Allied Craft Union of Canada, Local #1 Hamilton to express our discontent at what is happening to the Steel Industry in Hamilton, Ontario and around our country.

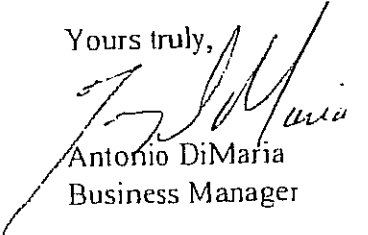
The present situation, involving US Steel and USW Local 1005 is another example of the Canadian government sitting on their hands, while a foreign multi-national company is attempting, to decimate a community using its dominant global position. This action is totally unacceptable to Local 1005 and to the residents of Hamilton, and their families.

Bricklayers have been servicing the Hilton Works Plant for over 50 years which puts my members indirectly on the picket line. Although we are not on strike my members are losing valuable hours, which helps to feed and clothe their families and not to mention the tax they would be paying to the Government of Canada.

The question must be asked, why any foreign company be allowed, to have no concern for the fair working laws of Canada, to serve its own interests in the USA.

The 200 working members of the Brick and Allied Craft Union of Canada, Local #1 are requesting that your government stand up and stop this behaviour, and change the applicable laws on foreign take overs, to prevent similar unfair practices in the future. We should be encouraging foreign investment providing they play by the rules, that have been established by all stripes of government to protect workers and communities across the whole of Canada.

Yours truly,

  
Antonio DiMaria  
Business Manager



SHAWN HAGGERTY  
President

TERESA MAGEE  
Secretary-Treasurer

BETTY PARDY  
Recorder

January 17, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of United Food And Commercial Workers Union Locals 175 and 633 to express our displeasure with what is happening in the city of Hamilton. The current situation involving US Steel and USW Local 1005 is another example of the Canadian government standing idly while a foreign multi-national company attacks a community under the guise of labour relations. It is a scene we have seen repeated time and time again. And yes sir, it is unacceptable.

We have witnessed the same attacks at Vale-Inco in Sudbury, Port Colborne and the ongoing dispute at Voisey's Bay, at US Steel Lake Erie Works and others. It should be noted that Local 1005 didn't ask for a strike vote, in fact they offered the company a status quo agreement. Yet US Steel says it is a labour relations dispute. I would argue that this is anything but a labour dispute.

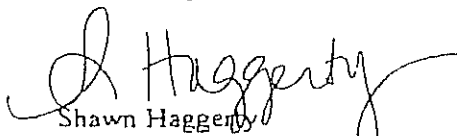
We need to recognize that this is an attack by a foreign company to serve its own interests in the United States and to have little or no concern as to the devastation this type of action causes to entire communities here in Canada.

The actions being taken by this company amount to what is often referred to as "Nation Wrecking".

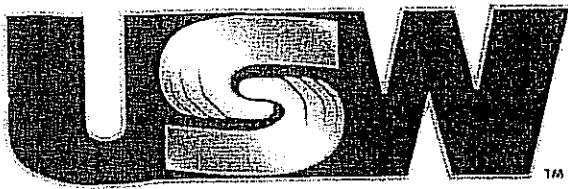
I have to ask you sir, how can a Canadian government of whatever political stripe sit by and allow this unconscionable behavior to happen? How can any Canadian government watch its steel industry die a slow death at the hands of a foreign company?

The 50,000 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Locals 175 and 633 are asking that you not only step in to stop this current situation at US Steel but to change the applicable laws on foreign investment to prevent similar actions in the future. We must welcome foreign investment into Canada that is agreed; we must say however that these foreign companies must adhere to rules put into place to protect workers and communities across this great country.

Yours Truly,

  
Shawn Haggerty  
President, UFCW Local 175

**UNITED STEELWORKERS**



**MÉTALLOS**

**District 6  
Ontario & Atlantic Provinces**

Wayne Fraser  
District Director  
Charlie Scibetta  
Assistant to the Director

December 6, 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council to express our displeasure at what is happening in our city at the present time. The current situation involving US Steel and USW Local 1005 is another example of the Canadian government standing idly by while a foreign multi-national company attacks a community under the guise of labour relations. It is a scene we have seen repeated time and time again. And yes sir, it is unacceptable.

We have witnessed the same attacks at Vale-Inco in Sudbury, Port Colborne and the ongoing dispute at Voisey's Bay, at US Steel Lake Erie Works and others. At Local 1005 it should be noted that they didn't ask for a strike vote in fact they offered the company a status quo agreement. Yet US Steel says it is a labour relations dispute. I would argue that this is anything but a labour dispute.

We need to recognize that this is an attack by a foreign company to serve its own interests in the United States and to have little or no concern as to the devastation this type of action causes to entire communities here in Canada.

The actions being taken by this company amount to what is often referred to as "Nation Wrecking".

I have to ask you sir, how can a Canadian government of whatever political stripe sit by and allow this unconscionable behavior to happen? How can any Canadian government watch its steel industry die a slow death at the hands of a foreign company?

The 6,000 members of the Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council are asking that you not only step in to stop this current situation at US Steel but to change the applicable laws on foreign investment to prevent similar actions in the future. We must welcome foreign investment into Canada that is agreed; we must say however that these foreign companies must adhere to rules put into place to protect workers and communities across this great country.

Yours Truly,

Darren Green  
President  
Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council

Dec.07, 2010

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of USW Local 16506 to protest the current lockout of the workers from the United Steelworkers Local 1005 by U.S. Steel.

Our Local 16506 represents 1,700 workers in the City of Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford, and surrounding areas and know the hardships caused to workers and their families by a labor dispute.

When U.S. Steel bought Stelco on October 31, 2007, it was fully aware of its obligations toward the pensioners and pension fund and the workers. It signed a contract with the federal government guaranteeing employment and production and that its takeover would be no problem for Canadians. Since their takeover there has been Three Disputes with U.S. Steel which is against their agreement with OUR GOVERNMENT and EMPLOYEES OF U.S. STEEL. It is disgraceful that our Government allow this company to shut down this mill in Canada and start up 2 other Blast Furnaces in the U.S Our government should not allow U.S. Steel products in Canada until the plant in Hamilton is up and running and producing steel here in Canada and the workers get a fair collective agreement.

The workers at U.S.Steel have worked hard all their lives and contributed significantly to the Canadian Economy. They also should be entitled to Unemployment Insurance, they are willing and able to go to work. U.S. Steel should have laid them off when they shut down blast furnace. This is shameful.

U.S. Steel owes it to the people of Hamilton to fulfill its employment and production commitments. You , Mr. Harper, have an obligation to defend not only the interests of the workers currently locked out by U.S.Steel, but also those of the pensioners of USW Local 1005 and pass a bill that disallows scabs to go into our work places.

Yours Truly

Brenda Smith  
President  
USW LOCAL 16506



Canadian Union of  
Public Employees

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Executive Committee:  
President:  
Ann Dembinski

First Vice-President:  
Tim Maguire

Vice-President - Chief  
Steward:  
David Kidd

Vice-President Equity:  
Ainsworth Hamilton

Recording Secretary:  
Nancy Murphy

Membership Secretary:  
Linda Rose

asurer :  
Lily Chang

Assigned CUPE  
Representatives:  
Derek Lue  
Helen Manning  
Don Styles  
Robin McKenna  
Andy Roberts

Bargaining Units:  
City of Toronto  
Full-Time  
City of Toronto  
Unit B Part-Time  
City of Toronto  
Recreation Workers  
Part-Time  
City of Toronto  
Homes for the Aged  
Part-Time  
Bridgepoint Hospital  
Service Units  
Bridgepoint Hospital  
Nurses and Paramedical  
Units  
Toronto Community  
Housing Corporation

**SERVING OUR  
MEMBERS  
SINCE  
1942**

**CUPE 79**

November 15, 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of the largest municipal union in Canada, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 79, to protest the current lockout of the workers from the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1005 by U.S. Steel. Lockouts are often a deplorable attempt by the employer to create hysteria, through use of intimidation tactics which threaten the workers with loss of their livelihoods.

CUPE Local 79 represents more than 18,000 workers in the City of Toronto, Bridgepoint Hospital and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, and our members understand all too well the mammoth hardships caused to workers and their families by a labour dispute.

Talks between the employer and USW Local 1005 hit a major impasse over the company's demands to close the employee defined benefit pension plan to new employees, who would go onto a defined contributions pension plan. When U.S. Steel bought Stelco on October 31, 2007, it was fully aware of its obligations toward the over 8,000 pensioners and the pension fund. It signed a contract with the federal government guaranteeing employment and production levels and declared in press releases that its takeover would be no problem for Canadians and even a "net benefit". The company made loud, public declarations that Hamilton workers and community businesses were safe with them.

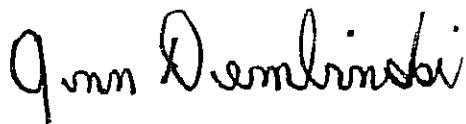
When USW Local 1005 met on November 2nd, 2010 with U.S. Steel and a provincial mediator, the Union appealed to U.S. Steel to negotiate in good faith. It is not surprising that the Union has accused U.S. Steel of bad faith bargaining when the company chose to shut down a blast furnace in Canada and then start up two blast furnaces in the U.S. On November 7, 2010, U.S. Steel locked out the workers at Hamilton Steel.

This current clash is particularly egregious because your government's approval of the purchase of the Stelco plant in Hamilton in 2007 was contingent on commitments from U.S. Steel on maintaining certain employment and production levels. It does not appear those commitments are being taken seriously by U.S. Steel. In essence, it has become clear that U.S. Steel's Hamilton plant is not considered by the company to be a primary site for production. A primary production site does not shut down regularly and have its production shifted to

plants in the United States. You and your government must hold foreign monopolies to account, in particular foreign monopolies such as U.S. Steel, which your federal government has permitted to take over vital sectors of the Canadian economy.

U.S. Steel owes it to the people of Hamilton to fulfill its employment and production commitments. You, Mr. Harper, have an obligation to defend not only the interests of the workers currently locked out by U.S. Steel, but also those of the pensioners of USW Local 1005 who worked so hard all their lives and contributed significantly to the Canadian economy.

Yours truly,



Ann Dembinski  
President

c.c. Rolf Gerstenberger – President USW Local 1005  
Jake Lombardo, Chair of the Political Action Committee USW Local 1005