SUPPORT THE STRIKE OF JBS MEATPACKING WORKERS IN COLORADO!



BY WILL LEHMAN
Mack Trucks worker and rank-and-file candidate for UAW president

The strike by workers at the JBS plant in Greeley, Colorado is an important development and must be supported by workers everywhere. These workers are standing up against a giant multinational corporation and against terrible conditions that have been imposed for years.

The ruling class and the politicians want to divide workers by nationality and immigration status. This is a lie. Immigrant workers are not our enemies. They are our brothers and sisters, fighting the same exploitative corporations and facing the same attacks.

I call on autoworkers across the country to support the JBS workers. The UAW bureaucracy, which has lined up with Trump and nationalist policies, tries to claim that foreign workers are our "competition." That is a fraud meant to divide us. The principle that must guide workers everywhere is the old and powerful one: an injury to one is an injury to all.

The workers in Greeley have already shown their determination. In 2020, they organized walkouts and sickouts against being forced to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were fighting not only JBS management but the first Trump administration, which invoked the Defense Production Act to keep meatpacking plants operating even as workers were getting sick and dying.

Today, with the war against Iran spiraling out of control, similar methods will be used again to force workers to continue producing under dangerous conditions. Workers must prepare to resist these measures.

The mass protests in Minneapolis against ICE violence shows the broad support for immigrant rights. But this movement must be grounded in the working class. Workers at other JBS plants, meatpacking workers across the United States and workers in other industries must be prepared to take action in defense of their brothers and sisters in Greeley. If there are signs that raids or other forms of repression are being prepared, workers across the country must respond immediately with mass action.

The key question is the development of rank-and-file committees to expand this struggle. These committees must prepare collective action and ensure that the struggle is expanded, not isolated.

The UFCW bureaucracy plays the same role as the bureaucracy in the UAW and the other unions in undermining our collective power. It has already undermined the position of Greeley workers by keeping them separated from the national JBS contract. Workers must overcome this isolation by uniting from below. Rank-and-file committees can also enforce democratic oversight over negotiations and ensure that any contract ends the strike only after workers win real improvements in wages, safety and conditions.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR WORKERS' POWER!

Get involved with the rank-and-file campaign in the UAW elections.

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