

Strike Support Urgently Needed

700 working people at Momentive Performance Materials (MPM) in Waterford, NY, members of IUE CWA Locals 359 and 380, have been on strike since November 2, 2016. These union brothers and sisters are taking on a fight for all of us against Hedge Fund Union Busters, and they need our help.

The workers are not just fighting Momentive. They are fighting Apollo Global Management and the Blackstone Group, two greedy hedge funds that have extracted tens of millions of fees out of the company even as it has gone in and out of bankruptcy. Since the company was spun off from General Electric in 2006, workers have seen their standard of living slashed.

In 2009 MPM slashed wages by 25 to 50 percent and outsourced dozens of jobs. In 2013 the company froze pensions for workers younger than 50. Now they want to slash health care for active workers and eliminate benefits for retirees. Meanwhile the company has received of \$15 million in tax breaks and grants from state and federal governments over the last ten years.

While the extensively trained union members have been on strike, the company is using inexperienced scab workers at a plant where mishandling of toxic chemicals could result in a community disaster. Since the strike began, there have been 30 chemicals spills.