

2012 AUTO TALKS

#AUTOTALKS

September 17, 2012

Negotiations Focus in on Ford, Talks with Others Continue

Yesterday afternoon the CAW announced that we would focus in our efforts on reaching a deal with Ford Motor Company. After more than three weeks of formal discussion, Ford emerged as the one most likely to come to an agreement with the union in a number of key areas. Neither General Motors nor Chrysler seemed to be as willing to reach a deal – both have significant concession demands on the union, even to this day.

Ford has been most receptive to the concept of the extended new hire grow-in and appears to recognize that the union will not accept a permanent two-tier workforce. A two-tier system would divide the membership and make it more difficult to do our jobs side-by-side, cutting across workplace and intergenerational solidarity. It would drastically undermine our historic goal of ensuring that working in an auto plant remains a decent, well-paid job.

We do not yet have a deal with Ford, there are many details still to be worked out, but our hope is to establish a framework that we will then take to General Motors and Chrysler. Even at this late stage, negotiations are fluid and it is still possible that talks with Ford could fall apart.

Should we not reach a tentative agreement before today's **deadline of September 17, 2012 at 11:59 p.m.**, we could have a work stoppage at any one or even all three of the companies. We are optimistic though that with this latest development a strike can be avoided.

In order to keep the pressure on both General Motors and Chrysler, we will continue to meet with each company, maintaining the same deadline, with the intention of reaching new tentative agreements after Ford.

It is essential that all members at all locations across the three chains stay on the job and stay tuned for further information and instructions from your in-plant representatives. Failure to do so will have serious negative consequences on your bargaining committee's ability to achieve the best possible collective agreement. Our bargaining power depends completely on our collective discipline.

Thank you for your ongoing support and determination.

In solidarity,

The CAW General Motors, Chrysler and Ford Master Bargaining Committees

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