



June 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Over the past six years, the USW's intensified focus on the pulp and paper sectors has resulted in a number of victories for workers and our union – in bargaining; on the shop floor; in Washington, D.C.; and in communities spread far and wide across North America.

We committed at the time of the merger to communicate regularly on our progress in the paper sector. The enclosed report is the latest installment of our efforts. We have enclosed (5) copies of the report for your use. Please distribute them at work in break areas for members to review. The report can also be accessed on-line at [www.usw.org/paperworkers](http://www.usw.org/paperworkers). Upon review, you will see that without a doubt our industry is more stable, our wages better, our pensions improved and our jobs more secure than when this process began.

In fact, in April 2011, the USW negotiated its first second-generation Master Economic Agreement with International Paper on behalf of its mill employees, building on the progress we made in the original 2007 master. This milestone agreement will serve our members at IP and elsewhere well, but is merely the latest in the timeline of achievements the USW has made on behalf of our members in the paper sector in recent years.

In this progress report, we have highlighted a few of the issues and campaigns that have been successful, but rest assured that the industry and our members will continue to be challenged in the months and years to come.

With each new challenge we face, however, we also have an opportunity to show our employers, elected government representatives, overseas competitors and others that we Steelworkers will not back down or go away at the first sign of trouble or resistance.

In the current political and economic climate, it is vital and more important than ever that we stand and fight together. The forces of globalization and special interests have pushed their anti-worker, anti-union agendas on our families far enough.

We know from past experience that we can turn them back, but it will require solidarity, hard work and sacrifice – the shared components of any successful union endeavor.

We must each individually and collectively make an effort to build upon the unprecedented activism, participation and mobilization that has grown throughout the past six years. If we continue to encourage each other and build our union, we will, without a doubt, make longer and further strides in the years ahead.

Our continued progress in paper sector bargaining and other activities depends first and foremost upon activism and solidarity on every level of our union. Your engagement and involvement is the common thread that runs through all of the achievements laid out in this document, and they are the only suitable foundation upon which to build brighter futures – together.

In solidarity,

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

Jon Geenen  
International Vice President

Stan Johnson  
International Secretary-Treasurer

Thomas M. Conway  
International Vice President  
(Administration)

Fred Redmond  
International Vice President  
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C: International Executive Board and Staff

**United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union**