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## US Official News

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# Washington: Teamsters Local 89 Strikes Voith Industrial Services Over Unfair Labor Practices

Washington

Association of Western Pulp & Paper Workers has issued the following news release:

Voith Industrial Services (a Division of German corporation, Voith GmbH) for the company's repeated and ongoing violations of the National Labor Relations Act. After being found by an administrative law judge of having committed numerous unfair labor practices against its employees and the members of Teamsters Local 89, Voith failed to comply the Judge's Order and remedies. This, and other events, ultimately led to the decision by Local 89 to engage in an UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE STRIKE.

In 2012, Voith engaged in an unlawful scheme to displace and discriminate against Teamster workers employed at Ford's Louisville Assembly Plant. This began a lengthy legal battle to protect the livelihoods of our Teamster sisters and brothers. While Local 89 ultimately prevailed in its legal actions, Voith refused to adhere to the remedies ordered by the Judge. Voith instead implemented a campaign of retaliation against its employees. As Voith Facility Manager Jason Miller testified during a hearing, Voith declared "war with the Teamsters".

In this war against its employees, Voith promptly terminated two workers in retaliation for their Teamster affiliation. Both employees had testified in prior cases against Voith and were subsequently targeted by Voith. Another Administrative Law Judge for the National Labor Relations Board found these two workers were illegally discharged as reprisal for their union support.

So far, two administrative law judges have found Voith guilty of repeatedly "interfering with, restraining, and coercing employees in the exercise of their rights" under Section 7 and Section 8(a)(1) of the National Labor Relations Act. Currently Voith is facing potentially 50-100 million dollars in compensatory damages and other liabilities as a result of its unlawful actions.

These and other violations of federal law have led to this recourse by the members and leadership of Local 89. Every effort to compel Voith to adhere to the orders of both Judges has proven fruitless. As we take strike action against Voith for its unfair labor practices, we ask all Teamsters, in every company and craft, to stand with these brave brothers and sisters. We will continue our lawfully sanctioned strike efforts as long as necessary in order to ensure these hard-working men and women remain free from employer reprisal for the exercise of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act.

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