



UAW Local 1407
Putnam Co. Labor Temple
37 South Whitney Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38501

April 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Region 8,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your unconditional support we received during our strike. Local 1407 endured many hardships and obstacles during this period. On March 3rd, 2020 Cookeville was hit by a violent EF-4 tornado, and we lost 18 people in our community. Many of our members suffered home damage and losses. To even start a strike was a heart wrenching task, but to do it under these conditions was a big risk because we did not know how the community would feel. With the company failing to answer our demands, and much discussion with our Members and Region 8 Leadership, we proceeded with the strike on March 8, 2020. During the beginning of the strike, the Covid-19 pandemic hit us. There were so many unknowns and fears of what this terrible illness can cause, we did not know how long our members could hold out. We had to put many safety measures in place to try and ensure the safety for each member. With all the job losses across our Nation, we began to wonder if we would even get a contract! Every time we began to lose hope, it seems we would either receive a call or a visit from a Brother or Sister from another local to bring us much needed food, water, and supplies or just to wish us words of encouragement.

We overcame many obstacles but could not have achieved any of this without the support from our brothers and sisters of Region 8. The numerous donations and out pouring of support from this union are what helped keep us united and strong!

I cannot say enough about all the support we received from our Region 8 staff. Director, Mitchell Smith, and Assistant Director, Tim Smith, who were by our side each step of the way. They were on the phone multiple times daily with us and our Servicing Reps, offering advice and encouragement. Without their guidance, this could have had a different outcome.

Our Local 1407 Membership, after holding strong and together for 41 days, finally reached an agreement with Cummins Filtration. We went back to work on April 20, 2020 with our heads held high and a contract we deserve!

Once again thank you from all of us at Local 1407.

In Solidarity,
President UAW Local 1407
Mark Dyer