

As you know Corporate Goodyear announced yesterday their intentions to shut down our plant by the end of the year. Our intentions are to show Corporate Goodyear that this would be a huge mistake to shut the Union City plant down. We have been under a plant closure agreement since 2009. The members of this union were told it would take two [2] things to happen if we were to have a chance to be successful. One the tire market would have to improve and two [2] the cost would have to be lowered. Both of these things have happened as the tire market has continued to improve and our membership has responded to lowering the cost of the tires. This membership has always responded to any challenge handed to them by Corporate Goodyear and again they have responded to this challenge. The Union City plant is making money for Corporate Goodyear.

Corporate states we are the high cost plant but lets look at this. We are the only plant on a six [6] day schedule, our sister plants are working under a continuous operating schedule. The cost of shutting down and restarting equipment is very costly and this is added to the cost of the tires and secondly over eighty [80] percent of the tires we manufacture are high value added tires so it does cost more to produce these tires.

In the press conference yesterday afternoon the question was asked where would these tires be built? The answer was they would be absorbed through our other plants. So what will happen to the tires they are currently building? They will be produced outside of this country in China and Chile. In reality the membership in Union City will be losing their jobs to tires going out of the country.

After the announcement yesterday we petitioned The Department of Labor for Trade Adjustment due to our jobs going out of the country. We will continue to keep the best interests of our membership first. If Corporate Goodyear does carry out with the closure of our plant it will be devastating to our members their families and the communities that we live in. There aren't jobs out there to just be had so people will have to leave the area to look for employment to be able to support a family.

So again I say our membership will be resilient and continue to perform to the expectations that they, as the best work force in the Goodyear chain has always done and prove to Corporate Goodyear in Akron they are making major mistake..