

July 19, 2013

Dr. Tim Gudszend, President
Rotek Inc.
1400 South Chillicothe Road
Aurora, Ohio 44207

Dear Dr. Gudszend:

It has recently been brought to my attention that your employees represented by the United Steel Workers have been locked out of their jobs for about six months. I've been informed that the company took this action after the employees overwhelmingly rejected a contract offer that would have immediately reduced wages of all current employees by more than 10 percent plus other concessions to their health care and other benefits.

Rotek's success in providing component parts for wind energy as well as products for our military has been a source of pride for Ohio. I have also heard USW President Leo Gerard praise Rotek when he speaks about how his members are producing recyclable, American made energy while providing middle class jobs.

With these points in mind, I ask you to make every effort to return to the bargaining table and reach a fair and equitable agreement. These lengthy disputes have already caused economic hardship for your employees and their families. In addition, I am concerned about the quality of the product that our armed forces depend upon while defending our nation. I am concerned that replacement workers will not have the training and expertise that those who protect our nation deserve.

Your direct involvement is necessary to ensure that we can bring an end to this dispute. I stand ready to help Rotek/ThyssenKrupp and the USW reach an agreement that is fair to all parties and resumes production of your important products. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Cc: George H. Cohen, Director of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services – Washington
DC