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Supporting UAW's Historic Fight for Good Green Jobs

2 messages

Madeline Janis <mjanis@jobstomoveamerica.org>

Thu, Sep 21, 2023 at 9:28 AM

Reply-To: llaborde@jobstomoveamerica.org

To: llaborde@jobstomoveamerica.org

We're supporting UAW workers in this historic battle for the future of the EV industry.

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[View it in your browser.](#)**Hi Lauren,**

Last week, UAW—the union representing auto workers across the country—made the historic decision to strike against the Big Three automakers: Ford, General Motors and Stellantis. This is the first time the union has struck against these three automakers simultaneously.

At JMA, we talk a lot about [this incredible moment we're in](#), as the Biden administration funnels unprecedented funds to supercharge U.S. manufacturing of the technology we need to combat climate

change: things like electric vehicles, batteries and semiconductors.

But unfortunately, so far what we've seen in terms of job quality at companies with U.S. manufacturing plants is [not encouraging](#)—in the electric vehicle industry in particular. Tesla, considered the EV pioneer, leads all automakers in [workplace safety violations](#), and a subsidiary of Hyundai in Alabama was found to have been using [child labor](#).

We can't assume that these green jobs will be good jobs, so UAW's historic action could set the course for this emerging industry.

Some of UAW's demands include wage increases—new workers now earn less than their counterparts did in [2007](#)—cost of living adjustments, retirement benefits and more. In the meantime, automakers CEOs' compensation and company profits are soaring. **Why aren't the workers creating value for these companies not sharing in this wealth?**

UAW also wants to unionize EV and battery factories, which could help ensure that the transition to clean technology benefits workers and communities as well as CEOs. Good jobs and unions are crucial. We recently [supported a study](#) of non-union manufacturing facilities in Alabama and Mississippi where workers reported significantly below union-scale wages, few opportunities for advancement, and virtually zero work-life balance. **We can't start this relatively new industry on the low-road.**

JMA works with UAW because we believe that workers in manufacturing have to benefit from the massive public investment in this once-in-a-generation transition. **We are at the dawn of another industrial revolution. We can't allow this one to lead us down a path of big profits for a few and miserable, low-quality jobs for the many.** The brave UAW members are taking a stand for all workers and communities across the country to make sure this transition benefits everybody.

We support UAW in this historic battle for the future of this industry, as well as *all* workers fighting to have benefits, safety in the workplace, and work-life balance.

In solidarity,



Madeline Janis
Co-Executive Director

What We're Reading and Watching

- We spoke to several major press outlets about the importance of the UAW strike and creating high-road jobs for manufacturing workers. **Read articles in [The Atlantic](#), [Associated Press](#) and [The New York Times](#).**
- We sent a letter to Hyundai from the Alabama Coalition for Community Benefits and the Georgia Labor Federation demanding that the company stop using child labor and negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement for its Alabama and Georgia factories. **[Read about the letter on AL.com.](#)**

- The latest episode of JMA in a Minute, JMA Alabama organizer Haeden Wright tells us all about unions and strikes—very timely! **Watch on [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).**
- **We also published an [Instagram explainer](#) on the UAW strike:** what auto workers are demanding, what a "stand up strike" is, and why this matters.
- Like UAW, our coalition in New York is echoing the demand for green jobs to be good jobs, too. To that end, we're supporting Green Transit, Green Jobs, a bill that promotes the creation of good jobs in zero-emission bus manufacturing. **Read the op-ed we worked on with UAW Region 9 and New York Renews for The Buffalo News [here](#).**



JMA is fighting to advance a powerful agenda for equitable job creation and climate justice that puts workers and their communities at the center. We're hiring for several open positions! [Visit our website to learn more and apply.](#)

Join us in the fight for good jobs and healthy communities.

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Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 1:46 PM

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