

Could a union be coming to Tesla's car plant?

On July 31, a group called Tesla Workers' Organizing Committee sent a letter to members of the company board of directors calling for safety improvements

and management neutrality toward a union campaign at the company's Fremont, California, plant, where 7,000 Tesla employees produce all-electric cars. That's after charges were filed with the National Labor Relations Board, accusing the

company of illegal surveillance, coercion, and intimidation — managers said workers could not pass out any literature not approved by the employer. Tesla Workers' Organizing Committee is affiliated with the United Auto Workers (UAW).

...5 questions for AFSCME's Stacy Chamberlain

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wrapped up in having a job and providing for themselves and their family. So my dad realized that and talked him through it, and that guy knew because he was in the union that he had somebody with him, and it was going to be okay.

What does the world look like for Oregon AFSCME after *Janus v. AFSCME* is decided by the U.S. Supreme Court? [*Janus v. AFSCME* is a case that seeks to bar any requirement that public sector workers pay dues or fees to their union to cover the costs of union representation.] I think that's the million-dollar question. Everybody is wondering what the impacts are going to be. For us, there are a number of things we need to do to engage our members. This is work we need to do no matter what. I think the better we are at engaging and reaching our members, the better off we are going to be when *Janus* hits. It's also about letting our members know what it would look like not to have a union in the workplace. *Janus* might be "death by 1,000 paper

cuts" to some organizations. We want to hit it square on, because you might have density right now at 85 percent, and then it's 60 and then 50 and at some point your effectiveness and your strength and your ability to affect change in a way that benefits our members and the community goes away.

Despite the threat of *Janus*, I don't see you packing your bags. What gives you hope? Our staff and our members. We have faced bogeymen before, whether it's [Bill] Sizemore [in the '90s] or the [anti-union group] Freedom Foundation now. After them it will be somebody else. As long as we have power, folks will come after us. So [what gives me hope] is having a good team and member leaders. Between now and June 2018 is crunch time, and all the work that we need to do now to get our members engaged and involved will pay off.

— Don McIntosh



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NATIONAL

AFL-CIO condemns violence in Charlottesville


National AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka, on behalf of the nation's labor unions, released the following statement Aug. 13: "Yesterday in Charlottesville, Virginia, the nation and the world witnessed the hateful views and violent actions of white supremacists and neo-Nazis. This racism and bigotry is the worst kind of evil in our world, and does not represent the true values of America. The true values of our country, values like equality and solidarity, are what have always overcome the most abominable prejudices. Any response must begin with our leaders, starting with President Trump, acknowledging this for what it is: domestic terrorism rooted in bigotry. My heart goes out to the victims, especially the family of those who lost their lives including a young woman named Heather Heyer and state troopers Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper-Pilot Berke M.M. Bates. I pray for everyone's safety. The labor movement condemns this domestic terrorism and remains committed to eradicating the despicable causes of hatred and intolerance."

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