

Steelworkers Deliver Message to Capitol Hill

Hundreds at National Conference Lobby Their Legislators

Last week, more than 700 Rapid Response activists gathered at the 2007 National Rapid Response / Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. to learn more about Rapid Response, receive detailed information on the most critical issues affecting us and to discuss our issues with legislators. The conference was a mix of presentations by experts on our issues, in-depth workshops on Rapid Response, high energy speakers and Capitol Hill action!

In addition to hearing from our International President Leo W. Gerard, delegates from hundreds of USW Locals heard from such speakers as: Author/Columnist William Greider, Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH), Rep. Tammy Baldwin (WI), Rep. Betty Sutton (OH) and National Labor Committee Director Charles Kernaghan.

At an anti-fast track rally just outside the Capitol Building, delegates were treated to comments from Sen. Bernie Sanders (VT), Sen. Richard Durbin (IL), Sen. Bob Casey (PA), Rep. Pete Visclosky (IN), Rep. Jason Altmire (PA), Rep. Mike Doyle (PA), Rep. Zack Space (OH), Rep. Joe Donnelly (IN) and Rep. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (OH). Each of these legislators addressed the current trade situation and promised to help change the current approach to trade that has cost us millions of good jobs.

Also, key panels and workshops were offered on: trade, health care, employee free choice act (EFCA), energy, common sense economics, USW allies and, of course, Rapid Response development and outreach.

Though we had a great and energizing conference, we must keep our momentum going to continue building our Rapid Response Teams, stop Fast Track and pass the EFCA and the Anti-Sweatshop Bill.

Keep watching for more information on these issues and details on how Rapid Response will take action on them in the near future.

To learn more about the 2007 National Rapid Response / Legislative Conference, see photos, conference video clips, and offer feedback, please visit the Rapid Response website at: www.uswrr.org.