

January 3, 2007

## New Year = New Challenges

2006 was a good year for Rapid Response. From building new and improved Local Union Rapid Response Teams to driving for labor law reform to helping introduce brand new anti-sweatshop legislation to the U.S. Congress, your work throughout the year continued to help build our union into an educated fighting force.

Also, the work done by Rapid Response within the last month to support USW members on strike at Goodyear was critical. You helped make sure Goodyear knew the fight they were in was a fight against not just the strikers, but against us all. This victory belongs to us all.

Now for 2007. Thanks to your hard work to educate and involve your co-workers, many “free traders” were thrown out of office and new “fair trade” candidates were elected in their place. We must now redouble our efforts, remembering that we will secure our future and build our union one issue at a time. Rapid Response is non partisan for a reason: we will hold all legislators accountable for their actions, no matter what political party with which they associate themselves.

### What to expect in 2007:

#### The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)

EFCA will be reintroduced within the next few weeks in Congress. Passing this bill will be a top priority for Rapid Response and you will have a chance to get involved in this important fight very soon.

#### Fast Track

Fast track trading authority is up for review again. Fast track is the legislation that allows the President to negotiate trade deals across the globe and those deals must then be rushed through Congress and cannot be amended to protect workers. This is a key battle we can and must win to stop the exodus of American jobs to low wage countries and to help workers around the world secure basic protections including the right to form a union.

#### Anti-sweatshop Legislation

The anti-sweatshop bill we worked on late in 2006 will be reintroduced in the new Congress and Rapid Response will be right in the middle of the effort to get co-sponsors on this bill. We got off to a great start in 2006, and we need to build on our success.

These issues, along with others including the continuing fight to deal with the U.S. Healthcare nightmare, should make for a busy year. Please be ready to make 2007 our best year ever in Rapid Response!