

To: USW Alcoa Locals

From: Tom Conway

Date: 12/16/2015

Re: Solidarity Request from the Maritime Union of Australia

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) has asked for our assistance in a dispute with Alcoa.

Alcoa has been shipping alumina for smelting around Australia's coast for over half a century, using vessels with Australian crews represented by the MUA. Recently, however, Alcoa has attempted to replace one of its ships, the MV Portland, with foreign-flagged ship whose non-Australian, non-union crew is paid as little as \$2-an-hour and is exempt from Australian taxation, workplace regulation and security requirements.

The 19 crew members of the MV Portland have refused to sail the ship and have now been subjected to a federal injunction and may face contempt charges. Meanwhile, Alcoa has begun operating the foreign-flagged, non-union ship.

IndustriALL Global Union, to which the USW is affiliated, has passed a resolution (attached) which calls on Alcoa to "urgently meet with the ITF, IndustriALL and Australian Council of Trade Unions with in order to:

Establish whether the recent actions of Alcoa in respect to the MV Portland represents a new international labor policy of the company in general and;

Resolve this dispute in favor of preserving Australian jobs by returning to the company's long standing practice of using Australian ships and seafarers to move Australian produced goods across the domestic coastline."

I am asking each of our Alcoa locals to take the following actions in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the MUA.

- Share this information with your local membership, and ask them to adopt a resolution expressing solidarity with the crew of the MV Portland and supporting the MUA's demands. I realize that it may not be possible to get a resolution passed this year, but please do what you can as our brothers are in a tough spot.
- Meet with your plant managers, give them a copy of the IndustriALL resolution and if possible the resolution from the Local, and ask them to pass this information on to the CEO.
- Send me and a report on your meeting with local management, including a copy of your local resolution and photos if possible.

Thank you all for your solidarity.