



United Tobacco Alliance

For a Voice and Freedom

On the Web: www.utavoice.org



*****OPEN LETTER TO REYNOLDS AMERICAN SHAREHOLDERS*****

WHY ARE RJ REYNOLDS EXECUTIVES THREATENING TO MOVE PRODUCTION FROM WINSTON-SALEM TO MEXICO?

According to affidavits from Reynolds workers, Company executives have threatened to move production from Winston-Salem to Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Could it be that the threat to move all production out of the United States of America has something to do with the current organizing drive at Reynolds primary plant in Winston-Salem?

Organizing for Justice

On April 5, 2006 a majority of Reynolds workers signed a petition to form a Union so they could negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with the Company. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has set a union election for May 11, 2006.

Since the workers petitioned the NLRB for a union election, Reynolds executives have launched a furious anti-union/anti-worker campaign. They have coerced and intimidated workers. They have commenced a campaign of misinformation and outright lies. More significantly, they have threatened to shut down RJ Reynolds which has been a part of the Winston-Salem, NC community for more than 100 years and move the production to Mexico and/or Puerto Rico.

Violation of International Global Standards?

According to the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), an organization composed of 30 member countries sharing a commitment to democracy and the market economy, it is a violation of OECD *Guidelines for Multinational Companies* to make threats of relocation to other countries during an organizing drive or during the collective bargaining process (*Article IV 1(a)* and *Article IV 7*).

Violation of US Federal Law

It is a violation of the National Labor Relations Act, Section 7 to threaten to close a facility as a means of intimidating and coercing workers to vote against unionization.

Susan Ivey knows the law as she was President of unionized Brown & Williamson. British American Tobacco (42% ownership of Reynolds) knows the law as the majority of its facilities around the world are union.

PLEASE TELL REYNOLDS TO RESPECT WORKERS LEGAL RIGHT TO UNIONIZE, AND TO SUPPORT AMERICAN WORKERS AND AMERICAN JOBS.