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May 26, 2021

Charles Malo
President and Chief Operating Officer
Cascades Containerboard Packaging
4001 Packard Road
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14303

Dear President Malo:

I write to express deep concern regarding the ongoing negotiations between the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) and Cascades Containerboard Packaging. Despite the employees' successful organizing campaign two years ago, discussions have yet to produce a contract. I urge both parties to negotiate in good faith to reach an agreement expeditiously.

As you know, over 100 employees at Cascades Containerboard Packaging successfully voted to join the IAMAW in April 2019, with the National Labor Relations Board certifying the results one month later. In the time between then and now, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the importance of workplace safety and worker empowerment into sharp focus. Across the world, essential workers continued showing up despite a lack of personal protective equipment, little to no knowledge about COVID-19 or how it is spread, and no timeline for vaccination development. The employees at Cascades Containerboard Packaging continued working throughout the pandemic, producing packaging materials that we depended on as we quarantined, practiced social distancing, and ordered items to our doorsteps to adhere to public health guidance. Through the most challenging of circumstances, they have demonstrated they are hardworking, dedicated, and deserving of a fair contract.

I strongly encourage you to engage with the IAMAW at the bargaining table to develop a contract that works for everyone. Workplace stability will benefit both the employees and Cascades Containerboard Packaging. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress