

# 700 IUE-CWA Members at Momentive are on Strike to Stop Hedge Fund Union-Busters. They Need Your Help.

Unions are the backbone of a strong middle-class, but at Momentive Performance Materials (MPM) in Waterford, NY greedy hedge fund billionaires are trying to break the union and drive down workers' standard of living.

700 members of IUE-CWA Local 81359/81380 struck Momentive, which produces high-tech silicone and other specialty products, on November 2, 2016. **These working people are standing up not only for their own families' well-being, but for good jobs and all working families in our community.**

The workers are not just fighting Momentive. They are fighting giant hedge funds like Apollo Global Management and the Blackstone Group, which have used fancy Wall Street financial maneuvers to extract tens of millions of fees out of the company even as it has gone in and out of bankruptcy. Since the company was spun off from GE in 2006, workers have seen their standard of living slashed:

- In 2009, MPM slashed production workers' wages by 25 to 50 percent and outsourced dozens of jobs.
- In 2013, the company froze pensions for workers younger than 50.
- Now Momentive wants to slash health care coverage for active employees, and wants to **eliminate completely health and life insurance for retired workers, many of whom are suffering from job-related illnesses caused by exposure to dangerous chemicals.**

Meanwhile, MPM's CEO collected more than \$5.4 million in compensation in 2015 - as much as the combined pay for 100 workers on strike. The company has also received over \$15 million in tax breaks and grants from state and federal governments over the last 10 years.

## COMPANY'S SCAB WORKFORCE **ENDANGERS PUBLIC WITH DANGEROUS CHEMICALS.**

While the extensively trained union members are on strike, the company is using inexperienced scab workers at a plant where mishandling of toxic chemicals could result in disaster. **Since the strike began, there have been 30 chemical spills at the plant, over 7 times the rate of spills when the trained workers are on the job. A potential chemical disaster is looming.**



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

**Donate to the  
Strike Fund and  
Send A Letter To CEO  
Jack Boss at:  
MomentiveWorkers.com**

**Attend the picket line:  
Contact  
pres359@gmail.com for  
more information.**



# Unskilled, Scab Workers Present a **Danger to the Community.**

Many highly hazardous materials are used in Momentive's complex operations. **IUE-CWA members have had extensive training and have years of on-the-job experience needed to perform the work safely.**

Just some of the toxic chemicals used at the plant include:

- **Trichlorosilane** which is extremely flammable - spontaneously flammable in the air - causes severe burns and can release toxic gas if contacted with water
- **Hydrochloric Acid** which can cause serious eye damage and severe skin burns
- **Chlorine** which may explode if heated, is fatal if inhaled, and causes severe skin burns and eye damage.

In a little over a month since the strike began (November 2 - December 12, 2016), **there have already been 30 reported spills** at Momentive investigated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). That's compared with 4 per month or less under normal circumstances.

**This is a significant and disturbing increase in spill activity. In fact, 42% of the total spills at the plant during all of 2016 have occurred in the first six weeks of the strike**

Untrained or inexperienced workers hired during the strike pose a significant risk to the community because the **mishandling of chemical operations can have catastrophic consequences resulting in fire, explosions, or releases of toxic chemicals.**

**Learn more: [MomentiveWorkers.com](http://MomentiveWorkers.com)**

