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Congress of the United States
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CHAIRMAN,
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

January 20, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In light of your upcoming trip to Ohio on January 22, 2010, I write to request that you meet with workers and union representatives of the Hugo Boss suit production plant located in Ohio's 10th Congressional District, specifically Brooklyn, Ohio.

I have been notified by executives at Hugo Boss that, as of last month, the production plant will permanently close by April 27, 2010, resulting in the loss of hundreds of jobs in my district and the surrounding area. While Workers United, the SEIU affiliate union representing the workers, continues to make efforts to alter the position of Hugo Boss, both they and I are optimistic that your attention to the matter could go a long way toward yielding such a change.

Workers United has been faced with unreasonable negotiation efforts by the international management of Hugo Boss, a company based in Germany, and the union and I ask for your assistance in keeping the jobs in Brooklyn from moving overseas. Prior to the announcement of no contract renewal with the workers and plant closure, the workers had been forced to accept pay cuts in the range of 20-35% while executive salaries and profits were maintained or increased.

Many of the workers that are scheduled to lose their jobs have substantial work histories at the plant, which Hugo Boss purchased in 1995. Their termination is not likely to improve the current 10.6% unemployment rate in Ohio.

I ask that you meet with Workers United and the workers of the Hugo Boss factory, so that they can share with you their experiences and to identify ways in which you may be able to be of assistance. To discuss the specifics of this request, you or your staff may contact me at 202-225-5871. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress