

Striking Dakkota auto workers picket Ford Chicago Assembly and call for ban on scab parts: “An injury to one is an injury to all!”

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Work at Dakkota, Ford or in the auto industry? Fill out the form below this article to get involved with the Autoworkers Rank-and-File Committee Network at your plant. All submissions will be kept anonymous.

Dakkota parts workers in Chicago have courageously been on strike for nearly a month. They have rejected four separate UAW-company sellout agreements that would impose poverty wages on them, despite threats of lockouts and job cuts by the UAW and the company.

The rebellion of Dakkota workers has won support among Ford workers, workers in Dakkota plants in Michigan and among other Big Three auto workers.

On Wednesday afternoon, in a development of immense significance in the class struggle, Dakkota workers sought to break the isolation imposed by the UAW bureaucracy and go on the offensive by picketing the Ford Chicago Assembly Plant during the shift change.

The workers handed Ford workers the recently published statement of the Dakkota Workers Rank-and-File Committee titled, Support the Dakkota auto parts strike! An injury to one is an injury to all! Ban the use of scab parts from Dakkota!

Currently, the UAW bureaucracy and UAW Local 551 have forced workers at the Ford plant to continue handling scab parts from Dakkota. But there has been growing opposition among Ford workers to handling parts produced by strikebreakers, which the UAW has completely ignored.

The picketing outside the Ford plant by Dakkota workers is the first of its type in decades. It expresses the objective strivings of workers to expand their strike against poverty wages in the auto industry and link up

their struggle with the fight against job cuts and layoffs.

The picketing by the Dakkota workers outside the Ford Chicago Assembly plant has already begun to have an impact, with Ford workers responding in anger on social media.

One Ford worker responded, “International is leaving you guys to hang. An CAP/551 shouldn’t have taken one scab part! This goes against everything UAW stands for! Where’s the solidarity for [Dakkota workers in] 3212!?”

On the picket line on Tuesday, Dakkota workers had a clear message to workers at Ford: “Stop using scab parts!”

Workers demanded, “Leave the scab parts alone! We need the cost of living just like you all did. We stood out there a few months with you supporting you the same way, and we didn’t get paid for it, but we were out there.” One worker appealed, “Brothers and sisters of the UAW, period. Do not use them scab parts.”

Another worker said to Ford workers, “If they shut Ford down, it costs this company money. Support our strike! We supported you guys when you went out on strike. We were out of jobs. We didn’t get any strike pay when they went out on strike. You should not be using these parts.”

Workers are not shy about expressing their anger at UAW officials. UAW President Shawn Fain, other UAW International executives and UAW Local 3212 officials have responded to the repeated defeat of their sellout contracts by threatening workers, telling them that if they do not accept Dakkota’s demands, they will be fired.

