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March 31, 2010

File No:

11830-19008

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VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Chris Robison
Vice President, Operations
Rio Tinto Minerals
14486 Borax Road
Boron, CA 93516

Re: ILWU Local 30 and Rio Tinto Negotiations

Dear Mr. Robison:

On March 9, we sent you a letter on behalf of Local 30 inquiring whether Rio Tinto is willing to lift the lockout, reinstate the locked out employees and make them whole for lost wages and benefits. While you have not responded in writing, Mediator Rucks passed along to me your response that Rio Tinto had no intention of lifting the lockout or reinstating Local 30 members, much less making them whole.

On March 16, Local 30 conducted a membership meeting during which the leadership discussed with members Rio Tinto's recent communication. The membership again rejected the January 28 ultimatum proposal Rio Tinto has sought to impose on its employees using the unlawful lockout. Local 30 members will not be forced into accepting the unlawful ultimatum proposal.

Local 30 is committed to negotiating a fair agreement for its members. Rio Tinto has time and again erected roadblocks denying Local 30 members that fair agreement: locking out Local 30 members, refusing to bargain while it hired replacement workers, and then refusing to lift the lockout to permit good faith bargaining.

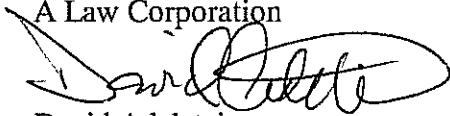
The federal mediator has recently asked Rio Tinto and Local 30 to meet with him once again. Local 30 does not believe that Rio Tinto can honestly bargain in good faith until it has lifted the lockout and Local 30 members have been returned to work and made whole.

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Nonetheless, Local 30 will respect the good faith efforts by the mediator to bring the parties together. Accordingly, we have advised the mediator that we will agree to his request to return to the bargaining table. Please note that all discussions are subject to Local 30's legal position that Rio Tinto's unremedied unfair labor practices, including the lockout, prevent good faith negotiations by Rio Tinto.

Sincerely,

Bush Gottlieb Singer López
Kohanski Adelstein & Dickinson
A Law Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Adelstein", written over a horizontal line.

David Adelstein

cc: Federal Mediator James Rucks (by fax and mail)

bcc: (via email)
Eleanor Morton
Craig Merrilees
Peter Olney