



BOB KING, President

DENNIS WILLIAMS, Secretary-Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENTS: JOE ASHTON • CINDY ESTRADA • GENERAL HOLIEFIELD • JIMMY SETTLES

September 28, 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Dear Representative:

This week the House is expected to take up the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847). This bipartisan bill would provide medical monitoring, treatment, and compensation to emergency responders, recovery and clean-up workers, and community members suffering serious illnesses as a result of hazardous exposures from the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The UAW urges you to vote for passage of this bill.

Tens of thousands of workers rushed to the World Trade Center (WTC) site to assist in rescue and recovery operations following the 9/11 attacks. At the site, they were exposed to a toxic mix of dust and fumes, as were residents and others near Ground Zero. Now thousands of these individuals are suffering from serious respiratory diseases and other severe health problems. The bill would provide monitoring, treatment, and compensation, funded through capped mandatory spending, for workers and nearby residents who are suffering the health consequences of the 9/11 attack. These heroes and survivors deserve the certainty that a discretionary program, subject to the annual appropriation process, cannot provide. Nevertheless, spending under H.R. 847 would not be an unlimited commitment. The program contains caps on time, enrollees, and total expenditures such that the total cost for both health and compensation will not exceed \$ 7.7 billion.

The 9/11 attacks were attacks on our entire nation. The United States acted to compensate and care for the injured and the surviving family members of those who were killed. The UAW believes the same obligation should now lead Congress to meet the needs of 9/11 rescue, recovery, and clean-up workers as well as area residents who became ill because of their exposure to WTC hazards.

For these reasons, the UAW urges you to vote for passage of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847). Thank you for considering our views on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Barbara Somson
Legislative Director

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