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September 19, 2006

Mr. Alan Hippe
CEO and President
Continental Tire North America, Inc.
1800 Continental Boulevard
Charlotte, North Carolina 28273-6388

Dear Mr. Hippe:

I represent the Fifth Congressional District of South Carolina, where I am told some sixty percent of your workers live. Last Saturday morning, I met with several hundred of your employees at the union hall of Local 850, United Steelworkers. It was a grim gathering. I listened to their grievances and assured them that I would write you in their behalf.

The members of Local 850 believe that Continental Tire has not bargained in good faith for the following reasons:

First, they charge that Continental has stretched out negotiations with the union in order for the collective bargaining agreement to expire so that Continental can present its own package of concessions without the Steelworkers' input.

Next, they strongly suspect that Continental has avoided closing its plant in Charlotte to avoid paying benefits connected with an official plant closure. We would all be pleased, of course, if Continental Tire decided to continue operations at its Charlotte plant.

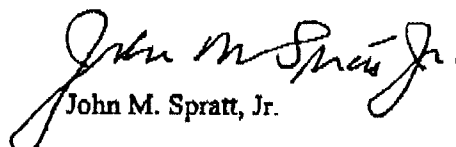
Finally, they believe that Continental has increased medical insurance premiums for retired employees, knowing that the increases will require retirees to pay up to three-fourths of their monthly pensions for insurance, which will make it difficult, if not impossible, for those on fixed incomes with mortgages and other commitments to maintain the coverage. Many of these workers, due to careers of heavy physical labor, retired from their jobs at Continental Tire before they reached the Medicare eligibility age of 65. Without medical coverage, many will be uninsured at a time in their lives when insurance is critically important. They retired with the assurance that their pensions and health benefits would be there for them. They are now at risk of losing benefits they worked their entire careers to earn.

I strongly encourage Continental Tire to bargain in good faith toward the resolution of these issues. Over the years, I have known many of your employees, and have found them proud of their work first at General Tire, then Continental Tire. They believed that they enjoyed one of the best industrial jobs in our area, and they showed their gratitude in the

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work they did. All they ask is to be treated fairly in return for the dedication and hard work that have helped your company succeed. I urge Continental to return in earnest good faith to the resolution of these issues, with the high standards associated with a company of your stature.

Yours sincerely,


John M. Spratt, Jr.