



August 31, 2007

Mr. Daniel M. Kovalik
Associate General Counsel
United Steelworkers
Five Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Mr. Kovalik:

I am writing in reference to U.S. Submission 2006-01(Coahuila), filed with the U.S. National Administrative Office (U.S. NAO) on November 9, 2006, by the United Steelworkers concerning alleged worker rights violations in the Mexican State of Coahuila. The Department of Labor's Office of Trade and Labor Affairs (OTLA) retains the functions of, and designation as, the U.S. NAO for the purposes of administering Departmental responsibilities under the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC).

As the U.S. NAO's past reviews and public reports of review indicate, we are cognizant of the rights of workers in Mexico and the obligations that Parties to the NAALC have in terms of enforcing existing labor law. In the current case, the U.S. NAO has determined that the numerous pending proceedings in Mexico's labor justice and criminal law systems, the complaints filed with the International Labor Organization, and the ongoing efforts on the part of Mexico's Minister of Labor, should be given an opportunity to address the issues raised prior to the initiation of a U.S. NAO review. Therefore, pursuant to Sections G(2) and G(3)(c) of OTLA's 1994 Procedural Guidelines, the U.S. NAO has determined that the objectives of the NAALC would not be furthered by a review at this time of whether Mexico has failed to comply with its obligations. Accordingly, the Department of Labor declines review of the submission.

The Department of Labor will continue to monitor developments in Mexico relating to occupational safety and health, freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Schoepfle".

Gregory Schoepfle
Director, Office of Trade and Labor Affairs
Secretary, United States National Administrative Office