

Statement of Katherine Ivey
Plaintiff in *Adcock et al. v. UAW and Freightliner LLC*
Tuesday, January 24, 2006 – Detroit, Michigan
Gastonia Parts Manufacturing Plant
Gastonia, North Carolina

I stand before you today the victim of an illegal backroom deal between UAW union officials and Freightliner. As a 16-year veteran machine operator at Freightliner's Gastonia, North Carolina facility, I was appalled to learn that our employer, and the union officials that now supposedly represent us, sold out so many thousands of hard-working employees like myself.

UAW officials, who are more concerned with increasing the number of employees paying union dues than making changes for us workers, struck a secret deal with my employer – at our expense. As we would later find out, Freightliner agreed to help UAW bosses organize workers, and UAW union officials agreed to limit our wages and increase our health care costs, among other concessions.

Well, Freightliner held up its end of the illegal bargain. My fellow workers and I were forced to attend pro-union speeches given by UAW officials on company property during work hours. We were told to sign “union authorization cards” that would count as so-called “votes” for the union. There was lots of pressure, and we did not even get a secret ballot election.

Once the UAW union was recognized, union officials held up their end of the bargain and made concessions at our expense. What's worse, this dishonest exchange was deliberately concealed from all of us Gastonia employees.

We're filing this lawsuit today on behalf of ourselves and thousands of other Freightliner employees because, as working Americans, we deserve much better. We're taking action because the self-serving interests of union officials should not stand between us and a better life.